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WELCOME

Not content with issuing a secretive miniature sheet to mark the Queen's 'longest reign' last month (an embargo from 'the Palace' stopped us showing you the sheet in our last issue, but it's there for you to see on page 35), Royal Mail surprised us all with details of another, bigger, bolder stamp set, which had previously been unannounced, in the shape of eighteen Star Wars stamps, as detailed on page 36.

The news will be met with cynicism from some collectors; the stamps are clearly aimed at the film fan and those of us collecting every British stamp might argue that there are simply too many. But take a step back and look at the stamps, consider the attention they have already brought to our hobby and the number of non-collectors who might start collecting, and the set starts to make more sense. We're definitely getting excited about the stamps here at *Stamp & Coin Mart* HQ, and are thrilled to announce that both the December and January issues of the magazine will come with free, limited edition Star Wars stamp cards, courtesy of Royal Mail. A great offer exclusive to *Stamp & Coin Mart*.

We've also been working with the British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) this month, and you can find out more about the group in our article on page 33. We're very pleased to reveal the first *Stamp & Coin Mart* limited edition commemorative cover in this issue, which marks Remembrance Day and is available to new subscribers – don't miss the special offer on page 56. The cover was produced by the BFPS and features some poignant artwork by army artist Richard Salter, alongside a GB poppy stamp and our own logo. As Darrell Drury of the BFPS says, the simple cover 'truly invokes the Act of Remembrance'. I hope you agree.



According to this Colombian stamp, Javier Pereira lived to be 167 years old! His secret? Cigars and plenty of coffee. See our article on coffee stamps on page 74.

Matt Hill, Editor

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STAMP & COIN MART

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MEET THE EXPERTS...



The Fitzwilliam Museum's Richard Kelleher has a background in field archaeology and has studied the history of coins for many years. He writes our exclusive monthly series on the British Museum's renowned coin collection, see page 104.



Author and historian Dane Garrod is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, past Vice President of the National Philatelic Society, photographer of proceedings at the annual UK Philatelic Congress, and presenter of displays to local societies.



Amanda Grieve has been interested in stamps since childhood and started working for Packs & Cards while completing her PhD in Archaeology. Her latest column on GB-related philatelic collectables examines delegate folders, and can be found on page 28.

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Faroe Islands Stamps

Christmas Issues and Year Collections 2015



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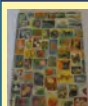
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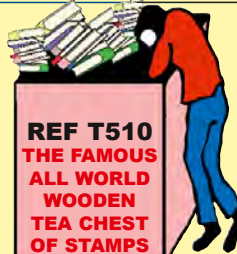
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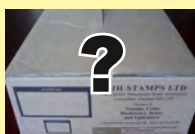
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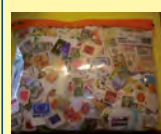


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Royal Mail to issue Star Wars stamps

Royal Mail recently announced that it will issue a set of eighteen stamps to celebrate the Star Wars series of films and mark the release of the forthcoming episode, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* – the second time in just a few weeks that Royal Mail have revealed a previously unannounced stamp set.

The stamps, illustrated by British artist Malcolm Tween, depict nine iconic characters from the first six films and three from the forthcoming film: Rey, Finn and Kylo Ren. Incorporated onto each stamp is a secondary scene or character including new droid BB-8. In addition, the '1ST' font used on the stamps will replicate that of the iconic typeface used for the films.

Also being issued on 20 October will be a Miniature Sheet of six stamps featuring intricately detailed illustrations of six iconic Star Wars vehicles, brought together against a backdrop of the Death Star.

The Star Wars series began in 1977. So far, there have been two trilogies of movies that have included major British involvement at UK studios. The seventh episode in the series will be released in cinemas on 17 December. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* has been filmed at Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire, using British expertise in cast and crew. The two further episodes in this trilogy will also be filmed in the UK.

Find out more about the stamps in our special feature on page 36.



FREE Star Wars stamp cards with Stamp & Coin Mart

The December and January issues of *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine will include a FREE gift of Star Wars stamp cards, courtesy of Royal Mail. The issues are expected to be hugely popular, and you can guarantee your copy now by joining *Stamp & Coin Mart*. See our latest subscription offer on page 56.



Guernsey continue WWI series

Guernsey Post will issue the next instalment in their Stories from the Great War stamp series on 11 November, exploring how the General Post Office (GPO) contributed to the war effort.

The six stamps focus on the postal history of the Great War, recreating covers and one stamp from those times. Among the subjects depicted is Sark postman Philip Carré who joined the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry (RGLI); a card sent home to Guernsey by Lieutenant Peter Le Page of the Royal Army Medical Corps; and Robert and Ethel Bynam, who married after the War in 1922, the stamp showing the Edward VII penny stamp of that time affixed at an angle said to express the message: 'longing to see you again'. Another stamp shows a completed Field Service Post Card, which gave serving soldiers just a few options to pick to inform their loved ones back home of their well being.

Designed by Charlotte Barnes, the stamps were printed by BDT International and are the second instalment in the series of stamps which will continue until 2018.



In brief

Dealers Rushstamps recently attended the Singapore 2015 Exhibition and have reported that Royal Mail were selling Post & Go Stamps in collectors strips or individually, with the labels incorrectly inscribed 'Singpex 2015' instead of the correct title of 'Singapore 2015'. Allan M Grant explained: 'At the exhibition there was supposed to be some Smiler Sheetlets available with a similar overprint however, the stock failed to arrive from England. However, they were happy to accept orders for later delivery provided you paid for them at the show and ordered them there. There are two sheets, the usual Red, White and Blue in a double pane of ten and also the new Penny Black in a similar format. Surprisingly, as these were printed at a later date, they are now correctly inscribed 'Singapore 2015'. We understand that the print quantity was limited to only 100 of each and will prove to be extremely popular.'

The recent Annual General Meeting of The Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS) saw Rick Warren re-elected as Chairman, Vince Cordell re-elected as Vice Chairman, and Simon Carson elected as Treasurer. Find out more about the PTS at the website: <http://thephilatelictaderssociety.co.uk>

Australia Post has launched a new online resource for Australia's philatelic community. The 'Collections Hub' features philatelic news, collector profiles, guest posts and events listings, 'providing enthusiasts with a resource to discuss and share their passion for the popular hobby'. Visit the website at: www.australiapostcollectables.com.au

Opponents of the Indian government have protested against the decision to withdraw stamps depicting former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. Stamps featuring the former leaders were part of an ongoing 'Builders of Modern India' definitive set which has now been replaced with a 'Makers of India' theme. 'This is nothing, but pure vindictiveness' Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly told the newspaper *Tehelka Daily*.

London to host international stamp exhibition in 2020

Organisers have confirmed that a major international stamp exhibition will take place at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London from Saturday 2 May until Saturday 9 May, 2020.

This event will be a full international exhibition with competitive classes in Traditional, Postal History, Thematic, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Open, Literature and Youth.

A spokesperson for the organisers said: 'To ensure that as many exhibitors as possible can be accepted, the frames will be used twice during the week with exhibits being swapped on Tuesday, 5 May.' London has traditionally hosted an international philatelic event every ten years, with this year's London 2015 event catering for a European audience.

The Chairman of the Organising Committee has been confirmed as Frank Walton RDP FRPSL, the current President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and a website has been established at www.london2020.co, which will be developed as preparations for the exhibition progress.

'The Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS) is fully supportive of the exhibition and is coordinating booth sales on behalf of the organising committee,' a spokesperson added. 'Anyone interested in taking a trade stand can follow a link on the website.'

Stamp & Coin Mart will be working closely with the organising committee of the London 2020 event and reporting on developments as plans progress.



Senior Corporate Development Manager for Postal Museum

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) has announced the appointment of Damian Chapman as Senior Corporate Development Manager, to help create new corporate partnerships to support the long-term growth and development of The Postal Museum.

Damian joins the BPMA from national youth social action charity Envision where he was Head of Fundraising. Damian said: 'The Postal Museum will be one of the most exciting cultural ventures of the 21st century, and I am delighted to be joining a team dedicated to revealing these under-told stories from our shared social and communications history.'

'Many people don't know important elements of our heritage, such as Mail Rail, exist. The chance to showcase the world's first electric driverless underground railway is something I am really looking forward to.'

The BPMA's Head of Fundraising, Emma Jhita, said: 'We are delighted to have Damian on board. He will play a vital role in helping us raise the remaining £2.5 million we need to deliver The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, in addition to revenue fundraising once we've met our target. The opportunities for corporate partnerships are significant, and we look forward to working with supportive companies and organisations to realise the potential of this exciting and ambitious project.'

To find out more about The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, and opportunities to support the project, visit the BPMA's dedicated project website www.postalmuseum.org and don't miss our regular update from the BPMA on page 17.





Stampex Large Gold Medals

Traditional Philately

Guatemala 1879-1881 Small Quetzal Issue
(Arthur Woo)

Postal History

Postal History of South Georgia 1909-1954
(Hugh Osborne)

Philatelic Literature

Catalogue. Signs of postal payment,
Zemstvo, Venden 1866-1919.
Local issues of Civil War time 1918-1923.
The Tuvan People's Republic 1926-1944.
Local issues of the Russian Federation
1992 - 2006. Vols 1 & 2
(MARKA Publishing and Trading Center)

The postage dues of Zanzibar 1875-1964:
the stamps, the covers and their story
(John Griffith-Jones)

You can see the full list of Stampex
results on our website, just visit:
<http://stamp.cm/stampex-results>

Stampex popular with collectors

The national stamp exhibition Stampex recently took place at the Business Design Centre in London, with thousands of collectors descending on the venue to browse the many trade stands.

The event was the first organised by the recently appointed secretary of the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS), Lucie Warren, who told *Stamp & Coin Mart*: 'There was a lot to learn at my first Stampex but I feel that generally everything ran smoothly. We are lucky that the venue know how Stampex works and the suppliers know us all, they even know most of the exhibitors by name after so many years.

There are always hiccups with every event and as the organiser the challenge is always dealing with issues on site and ensuring everyone has what they are meant to have and are stationed where they are meant to be.

'The highlights of the show included meeting the suppliers, stand holders and the other philatelists who travelled far and wide to be at Stampex that I have been liaising with for a good few months and being able to put faces to names. I like the personal approach as I feel it is good for building up long lasting working relationships. I also really enjoyed The PTS Drinks Reception at the Hilton Hotel which was held on Wednesday 16 September as it was a good chance to network!'

With the London 2015 Europhilex show taking place at the same venue in May, and an ABPS exhibition of postal history held in York in July, there was a smaller exhibit than usual at the show, but many displays still impressed the judges with four Large Gold medals being awarded.

Many philatelic societies took the opportunity to hold a meeting at the event, with the Great Britain Overprints Society (GBOS) displaying material and manning a society stand. GBOS Secretary, Tony Stanford said: 'Many visitors viewed the GBOS displays with interest which helps to raise the appreciation of this interesting philatelic niche and awareness of the Society. I was particularly pleased that the competitive entries got such good results, as many of them were by first-time entrants... all who contributed were delighted that they had made the effort to contribute to such a splendid display.'

As ever, the Royal Mail stand was popular and on the Thursday of the event, staff showed off the new Star Wars stamps giving visitors the chance to see the issues before they were officially released. The show catalogue, published by the *Stamp & Coin Mart* team, again proved successful, and many collectors were keen to purchase the limited edition souvenirs from the event's Information Stand. 'Stampex is sixty years old in 2016,' Lucie added, 'we are looking to embrace this as much as we can. Watch this space for more details!'



The forthcoming Star Wars stamps were previewed at Royal Mail's stand



GBOS Secretary Tony Stanford and member Marius Włodarczyk in front of the GBOS display



Bob James of Evesham and District Philatelic Society visited the Information Stand to show us the Battle of Evesham 750th Anniversary commemorative cover recently produced by the group

Scented and see-through stamps from Ireland



Ireland's An Post have issued a set of interactive stamps to represent the five senses, featuring stamps that smell, taste and make sounds.

The 'Five Senses' stamp set was issued on 10 September and features a number of different innovative designs, as well as offering users the ability to scan the stamps on their smart phone to access a special video. The 70 cent stamp features strawberry-flavoured adhesive gum, representing taste; a €1.05 stamp features thermochromic ink which changes colour when touched; and an 'eye' graphic on an otherwise transparent €1.25 stamp represents sight. A €1.70 stamp features an ear

illustration containing embedded particles which produce a sound when rubbed; and the €2.80 stamp has a mint fragrance.

Donal Connell, An Post Chief Executive said: 'Our post offices and mail centres use the most modern retail and mails processing technology in the world. We like to innovate wherever possible so we've added a new technical dimension to stamps, and the novelty of being able to taste, smell, hear and see through them – and even change their colour with a simple touch.'

Find out more about the stamps at: irishstamps.ie

Canada issues ghost stamps

Canada Post have got into the spirit of Halloween by releasing five stamps depicting well known ghost stories.

The spooky set is the second in the 'Haunted Canada' series and features ghost stories including the Grey Lady who wanders the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site searching for her lost love. Jim Phillips, Director of Stamp Services, Canada Post, said: 'There is nothing more fun, yet unsettling, as ghost stories, and we have a history filled with these memorable tales.

Our hope is that Canadians from coast to coast can continue to discover and pass on these stories, which are sure to give a few spine-tingling chills.'



Limited edition covers mark Remembrance Day

The British Forces Philatelic Service are set to issue a commemorative cover featuring specially commissioned artwork, to mark Remembrance Day later this month.

The 'BFPS 3195 We Will Remember Them' cover features 'The Poppy Tree' artwork by army artist Richard Salter, who will also sign the 100 limited edition covers. For a limited time *Stamp & Coin Mart* subscribers can purchase this and other covers with a special five percent discount by quoting the code: 'SCM5', valid until 7 November, 2015.

Meanwhile, the BFPS has produced a limited edition version of the cover especially for *Stamp & Coin Mart*, which will be given away free to the first fifty readers who subscribe to the magazine this month. Darrell Drury, Director of the British Forces Philatelic Service, said: 'We are printing, exclusively for *Stamp & Coin Mart*, fifty copies of a different version of the cover. We are using the BFPS 1000 special handstamp to cancel the stamp and we have put an exclusive cachet on the cover.' You can find out more about the BFPS in our article on page 33 and find out how to claim your free limited edition commemorative cover on page 56.



Competition winners

Congratulations to the following readers, who won British Bees presentation packs courtesy of Royal Mail in our September issue: Mr G Somerville, Bathgate; Mr F Bacon, Nailsea; Pete Lovesey, Louth; John Foulger, Norwich; Dave Olden, Farnham; Nikki Day, Hockley; Martin Turner, Haxby; Ken Moody, Wakefield; Dan Manning, Newbury; Carole Barnes, Exeter.

INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

WORLD

Many 100's Air issues with Ethiopia 1929 most to 3T, 1931 to 8g, 1947 set to \$10, Estonia, Egypt 1933 Congress set, 'long' set complete, Saar 1948 50fr, 200fr, Syria, extensive Iran, Curacao 1944 Red Cross Air set, Denmark 1925 vals to 500 ore, Japan 1929 set (M) etc A fascinating lot Cat £2800 **£410.0**

FOREIGN

Excellent range (100's) ets and better items in stock book with useful Germany inc M/S, Berlin with 1949 Views set UNM, Andorra O'Prints on France to 5Fr (M) Italy inc 1945 30L, 100L (M) Austria 1945 5RM Hitler O'Print expertised (M) etc A superb range Cat £17000 **£2,850.00**

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

1948 Silver Wedding complete mint in special album. The Hong Kong is mounted, of the rest, those checked inc N. Rhodesia appears UNM **£1,100.00**

BELGIUM

Occupation of Germany 100+ mint and / or FU inc both Eupen and Malmedy complete sets, 1919 to 1Fr, dues complete. Good lot Cat £790 **£155.00**
Many 100's in Davo from complete range imperfs mainly 4 margin, 1865 to 1Fr, 1866 trio, 1869 to 5Fr (remainder cancel) 1893 to 2Fr (M & FU) 1910-11 Charities complete (M) 1912 to 5Fr (M) 1915 set mint inc 5 Franken 1918 Red Cross Mint (rare) 1919 Tin Hat set, then virtually complete mint to 1970 inc all the good anti T.B sets, '32 Mercier Legion '33 Orval all the better 1950's sets, many UNM A superb lot Cat £18300 **£2,850.00**

BERMUDA

43 all QV from 1865 1d, 6d Crown CA to 1/= (2) 1883 to 1/= etc. Mainly mint few FU Cat £800 **£120.00**

BRAZIL

180+ from 1866 to 500r, 188 to 300r, 1881 to 200r, 1890 to 1,000r, 1894 to 2000r better later to 1940 inc 1937 Tourist set etc Cat £1000 **£185.00**

BRITISH N. AMERICA

About 60 inc Newfoundland with mint vals to 6c, Colony issues 1c., 12 ½ c (M) Nova Scotia, New Brunswick etc Cat £2400 **£310.00**

BURMA

43 from 1865 1d, 6d, (M) and

to 1/= FU, 1883 1/- M & FU etc Good lot Cat £800 **£120.00**

CANADA

100+ all QV from 1868 ½ c (2) 1c (M) and to 15c FU, 1870 to 10c, 1889 inc useful mint to 10c, 1893 20c, 50c FU Jubilee M & FU to 10c, 1897 most to 8c (M) complete to 8c (FU) 1898 vals to 20c (M) and FU etc Superior lot Cat £6600 **£675.00**

CURACAO

200+ on two stock sheets from 1873 vals to 50c., 1892 vals to 30c, 1936 Numerals to 7 ½ c (this mint) and Queen vals to 30c, 1928 to 25c, 1934 Colonisation to 30c., 1941 set to 1 ½ G (this single and marginal block of 4) 1946 Relief both sets., 1948 Queen Wilhelmina set etc. Cat £1350+ **£185.00**

DENMARK

About 200 mint and / or FU from 1851 4rbs., 1854 to 16Sk (scarce) 1875 most to 100 ore., 1905 10 ore-100ore, 1918 Postfrim vals to 27ore on 1K, 1913 27ore (FU) 1924 Anniversary set, 1929 Cancer (M & FU) 1934 Air set etc to 1940's Cat £1285 **£185.00**

FALKLANDS ISLANDS

13 all QV from 1885 (March) 1d., Further to 1896 6d, mixed mint and /or FU Cat £310 **£60.00**

FAROEES

FDC's x 32 from 1977 Amphilex, fairly complete to 1985 aeroplane, illustrated and unaddressed **£40.00**

GERMANY

French Zone Few 100's M / and or FU with most defin sets, all Red Cross sets, Baden re-building set and both M/S Cat £1840 **£325.00**

West Berlin 100's on leaves appears virtually complete M / or UNM to 1990 with black and red O'Prints, U.P.U set, 1949 Views, Goethe, S'Charges, Relief Funds (no M/S) Bells complete etc. Also includes better FU Cat £7600 **£1,100.00**

P.O'S Abroad 200+ mint and / or FU inc China with 1898 to 50pf, 5pf on 10pf, Foochow provisional (scarce) 1901 to 5MK (both types) 1905 to \$2 ½, 1906 to \$2 ½, Morocco with 1899 to 60c., 1900 to 6p 25, 1905 & '06 to 6p25, Turkey with 1884 & '89 to 2 ½ pi, 1900 to 25pi, 1903 most to 10pi, 1908 set, French Currency surcharge set etc. A fabulous lot Cat £7400 **£1,250.00**

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Q&A: Serge Kahn

We spoke to Serge Kahn, Commissioner of the Polar Exhibition at the forthcoming MonacoPhil exhibition, taking place between 3 and 5 December, and asked him what the special display will offer visitors

What can visitors expect to see in the exhibition devoted to Polar Philately?

Polar philately is becoming even more popular as a philatelic pursuit and seeing a broad display of material in this field should interest those currently involved in polar philately and those with a curiosity or developing interest in polar philately. The field can appear daunting to those unfamiliar with its major areas. This is because it encompasses so much (expeditions of all sorts, parts of aerophilately, sections of military postal history, thematics – polar oriented subjects, and geographics – traditional philately from sites in the polar regions). Visitors will see exhibits from within these five major categories that will help them better understand and enjoy this field's wealth of philately. Attendees will also be able to see, at one location, the full range of its material from the classics and earliest examples to clever and interesting presentations of topics with contemporary items. Everyone will find an exhibit that fits their interests and budget, as well as types and categories of material that they may not have regarded before as either 'polar' or accessible. Of course, being part of a world class philatelic exhibition, it also will have those premier examples from polar philately that should tantalise everyone who views them.

What is the link between the Polar Philately exhibition and Monaco?

International polar philatelic exhibitions are held regularly in various countries that normally have some polar activities association. Previously, for example, they were held in France and Germany. These are two countries with a strong polar expeditionary history. Monaco shares that distinction. Prince Albert I was a noted scientist, whose oceanographic cruises aboard *Princesse Alice* took him to many places for research, including four times to the Arctic. He hosted prominent polar scientists, whose work added to the world's body of knowledge. The exhibition's publication notes that his last oceanographic cruise occurred exactly 100 years ago.

What are the highlights of the Polar Philately exhibition?

There will be polar philatelic exhibits of extraordinary material comparable to the most exciting items found in general philately. A number of exhibits will have one-of-a-kind items, as well as those with significant coverage of a subject that may not have any rivals, due to scarcity of the material. Some of the more notable polar exhibits include, but are not limited to:

- Mail documenting the earliest French and German Antarctic expeditions (early 20th century).
- The only known mail from the first Antarctic expedition (Belgian) to winter in the Antarctic (late 19th century).
- Only known mail from the first official USA Antarctic Expedition that confirmed the existence of the Antarctic continent and named it (mid-19th century)
- Earliest known Greenland material (18th century).
- Material that documents the earliest transit of the Northwest Passage (mid-19th century).

There will also be exhibits with more accessible material that present their subjects in a manner that allow them also to be greatly admired and appreciated for how well they display their subjects.

Why do you think Polar Philately is such a fascinating subject?

This is one of those unfathomable questions that has been asked for as long as people have been drawn to the polar regions and its philately. One category of its material is described as 'archival,' and also can be found in some other fields of philately where it also has great attraction. These are items that you might expect to find in museums and archives that are imbued with history as would be an important historical artefact. Adding the nature of the material's association (such as an important polar activity) gives these items an even greater attraction. There is a sense of fascination associated with events in the polar regions that tends to be very inviting to many. To some it may be the added sense of physical and emotional hazard, but many are simply drawn to its beauty and character. Explorer and first to the North Pole, Robert E. Peary, when asked over a 100 years ago why he continues to explore in the High Arctic,



Above: Lt. Wilkes' last letter from the expedition to his wife (20 February 1842, off Singapore). Charged 27 cents for delivery to Washington, DC (over 400 mile rate, plus 2-cent 'SHIP' fee), then ('For'd') forwarded (3 August) to New York (no free forwarding then) for another 18-34 cents (under 400 miles) for a total of 45-34 cents

replied that he had contracted 'Arctic Fever.' Substituting 'polar' (Arctic and Antarctic) for just 'Arctic' would make it the pleasant 'affliction' of many in polar philately.

In terms of its philatelic material, it has some aspects that make it one of the few types of philately that has some areas that cannot have a catalogue or ready reference of all that might exist. New discoveries, especially of early polar expedition postal history, are made every year. In some cases, expeditions (exploratory and scientific expeditions are at the heart of polar philately, though not its entire corpus) would be unknown today, were it not for their philatelic finds. So just as existence in the polar regions can be challenging, so can be pursuit of much of its philatelic material. This also can be very attractive to those who seek an added flair to their philately.

Can you tell us about the Russian material that will form part of the exhibition?

There will be Russian material exhibited in the polar part of MonacoPhil '15. Several of the exhibits may surprise some onlookers, who will find that the Russians (from the 1930s to present) have had scientific stations on temporary ice floes, most of which can be documented with postal history. Many even had post offices, though they only served the few at the station and those who communicated with them. About a third of the massive country lies within the Arctic or sub-Arctic region, so that area's ordinary postal history also would be polar (such as North Russia and Siberia). The other part of MonacoPhil '15, with a broader philatelic scope, will also have fine Russian exhibits. MonacoPhil tends to feature a different main subject each time it is held, this year it is Russia, because MonacoPhil 2015 is an official partner of '2015, Cultural Year of Russia in Monaco'.

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THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Our regular update from the British Postal Museum & Archive as it works to open The Postal Museum in 2016

The story of our Royal Mail Ships

Stampex is an exciting time of year for us at the BPMA. It gives us an opportunity to meet with our supporters, who we often only get to see at the event, and also tell some of the stories that will be found in The Postal Museum. As the theme this time around was 'Sea Travel' we decided to tell the stories of possibly the two most well-known Royal Mail Ships, the *Titanic* and the *Lusitania*.

Earlier this year we marked the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Lusitania*. This tragedy proved a pivotal point in the First World War. When the Germans fired upon the ship they breached the International Cruiser Rules, which stated that passenger ships would not be attacked. The *Lusitania* sank killing 1,191 of the 1,962 people aboard, including 128 Americans. This was a major contributing factor in the American's decision to join the Allies and declare war on Germany in 1917.

The story of the *Titanic* is well-known across the world and rarely far from people's mind, being frequently referenced in the media. However, few people know that it was a Royal Mail Ship and it is this story that will be told in 'Mail for everyone' gallery in The Postal Museum. The display will tell the story of the postal workers on-board who attempted to save the mail as the ship was sinking as ensuring the safety of the post was considered to be an upmost priority, being the main method of communication at the time. All five postal workers aboard

lost their lives, but their bravery is still remembered today.

To give a visitors a feel of what they can expect from the gallery we brought facsimiles of communications from our archive relating to the disasters with us to Stampex. Visitors to the stand really engaged with the documents and expressed an interest in the unexpected stories we have within our archive.

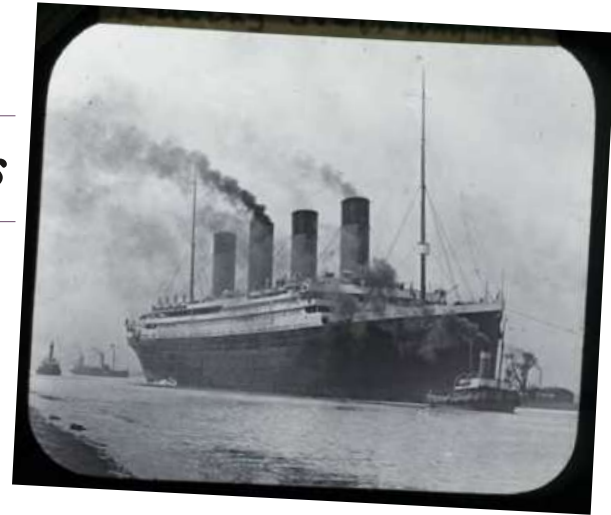
The originals of these communications, along with other documents relating to our social and communications history, which will fill 2.5 miles of shelving in the new archive, will be available to view in The Postal Museum's state-of-the-art Search Room when it opens to the public in late 2016.

This is one of the many ways we're attempting to make our collections more accessible, and easier to use than ever before. We are also working on projects to digitise our collections, so that they can be accessed remotely. This isn't limited to conventional 2D scans, we're also using the latest technology to create 3D scans of a number of objects, especially those within the philatelic collection that can't be made physically available for the public to explore. These projects will help us to ensure that these remarkable objects aren't kept hidden from view, but made available to help tell these stories of our shared history.

The BPMA aims to lead the way in using technology to ensure our collections are accessible, whether users visit in person or explore remotely from the UK or around the world. The support of collectors and enthusiasts is vital to ensure that these important items from history are able to tell a story to today's younger generation, and for generations to come.

You can donate £5 now by texting 'PSTM16 £5' to 70070 or e-mail: fundraising@postalheritage.org.uk for a more in-depth chat about opportunities to help support this

innovative and exciting new museum.



The *Titanic* leaving Southampton



First telegram from the *Titanic*



Second and third telegrams from the *Titanic*



A black and white lantern slide showing the wreck of the SS *Lusitania*

Latest auction results



An imperforate block of four Russian 1926 18k violet definitives, with each stamp pencil signed by 'Roger Calves' was recently sold at Cherrystone Philatelic Auctions. Only two or three of the blocks of four are thought to exist.

SOLD FOR £15,473



A Danzig 1920 5m slate and carmine stamp with both the centre of the stamp and the 'Danzig' overprint inverted recently sold at Cherrystone Philatelic Auctions. Considered an important German area rarity, the stamp is one example from a single sheet of twenty thought to exist with the double error. The auction catalogue explained: 'One can argue that in this case, it is the frame which is inverted, hence both the centre vignette and overprint are correctly positioned to one another. Very few stamps from this sheet exist.'

SOLD FOR £9,348



A 1907, 2c carmine red and black Panama stamp, with an inverted centre and a 'CANAL ZONE' overprint reading up was recently sold by Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions in the USA. The stamp was described as 'one of the great rarities of Canal Zone,' the auction catalogue continuing: 'Plass records only nine examples, all used and "apparently defective". This stamp would be one of the nicer examples.'

SOLD FOR £4,969



A rare cover bearing both imperforate and perforated 1d reds, sent to HMS *Eurydice* in Jamaica/Barbados on 5 November, 1855, was recently sold at Cavendish Auctions. Featuring an endorsement reading 'Black Sea Fleet letter Via M[arseilles]' and addressed to 'H.M.S. *Eurydice*, West Indies' the cover had unusual franking of two GB 1d red imperfs, both with 'very nearly' four margins; and one perforated 1d red, cancelled by two ')*0'. The letter was sent initially to London (15 November backstamp) and there sent to Barbados (6 December backstamp) before it was redirected (in red crayon) to 'Jamaica'. The lot was described as an 'important exhibition item with the rare 1d red imperfs. franking and an exceptional destination!'

SOLD FOR £3,200



A Bahamas 1916 'Special Delivery' 5d Staircase with inverted overprint and also 'double tree trunk' variety, recently sold at Warwick & Warwick. The variety was described as 'a remarkable coincidence as it is thought that only two sheets of the inverted overprint were released and therefore this is probably one of only two examples possible'.

SOLD FOR £945



In the 'substantial and valuable' Great Britain section at Warwick & Warwick's recent sale, an 1840 Penny Black plate 11 sold for £915, while a range of 1887-1900 Jubilee values to 1/- in UM blocks easily surpassed the estimate of £300 to sell for £830.

SOLD FOR £915



The recent Spink sale of items from the Vestey Collection, included a Trinidad *Lady McLeod* stamp issued in April 1847 for use on the ship, which plied its trade between Port of Spain and San Fernando carrying passengers, freight and mail. The auction catalogue explained that: 'In April 1847 the owner, David Bryce, made a stamp available so that those who wished to send letters were able to prepay the charge for carrying them on board his ship.'

SOLD FOR £34,000

Internet auctions



Your quick reference price guide to recent internet sales, in association with delcampe.net



SOLD FOR

£1,536

French
Somali Coast
- 75c Obock
overprinted 0,05
violet-brown &
red-orange 1902
MNH (with cert.)



SOLD FOR £731

Bosnia and Herzegovina registered letter
from Sarajevo to Venice 1903



SOLD FOR £439

Russia 1 ruble 1923 typography
printing unissued MLH



SOLD FOR £292

Mail by Zeppelin from France to Brazil
second flight to South America 1933



SOLD FOR £406

Germany 2 kreuzer orange
big coat of arms 1872 used



SOLD FOR £914

Egypt Aviation Congress -
Cairo 1933 imperforated



SOLD FOR £323

China machine stamp 1960 letter
from Canton to France

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WORLD VIEW

Looking after the bottom line

Stamp collecting came of age as a hobby by 1890. By that date all of the major stamp catalogues (Scott in the US, Stanley Gibbons for British, Michel for German Area, and Yvert & Tellier for France and Colonies) were being published annually. There were hundreds of worldwide philatelic journals published weekly and monthly. Stamp dealer shops were pervasive in most big cities, and the number of serious stamp collectors numbered in the tens of thousands.

The 'second generation' (so called because most of the adult collectors of 1890 had been children when the first stamps were issued) was so active because the hobby was so exciting. 'Finds' were still pervasive, and old correspondences often yielded scarce and valuable stamps. There were enough collectors for there to be high demand and high prices and enough older letters and attics from the earliest stamp days to make philatelic prospecting

rewarding and fun.

Postal agencies worldwide climbed onboard the stamp collecting popularity train. The Portuguese philatelic agency issued hundreds of long sets for her African colonies, many of which had little more Portuguese government than a Post Office and a flag. France was even

more profligate with her long Peace and Commerce sets issued in the 1890s for her colonies, amounting to nearly 1,000 stamps.

The United States Post Office was hardly immune from exploiting the 1890s collector demand. In 1893, the Columbian exposition set was issued by the USPO. Designed by the American Bank Note Company, the set had \$1-\$5 values making it the highest value set the US had ever issued (and indeed would not issue a set with higher face value for another 100 years). Sales were slower than hoped, and many of the higher value Columbians were destroyed. But even so, the gross to the Post Office was enormous, and most of the stamps were never used making the set a profit bonanza – the first of many times the USPO used collectors to help its bottom line.

Canada got into the act in 1898, with the Canadian Jubilee set, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the rule of Queen Victoria. The Jubilee set was also designed by the American Bank Note Company, the values are the same and the designs have a similar feel to the US Columbian issue. Canada was a bit late to the table though. By the late 1890s, so many worldwide new issues, made solely for collectors, had soured philatelists. Sales of the Jubilees were low. Today they rank as one of the stamp world's most popular sets.

John Apfelbaum has spent a lifetime learning about stamp collecting. He runs the venerable firm of stamp professionals Earl PL Apfelbaum, a business that has dealt in only stamps since 1901 and which was founded by his great grandfather. He can be reached at jda2006@aol.com



The recent Sajal Philatelics Cover Auctions sale saw high prices achieved for rarer First Day Covers, including three unusual slogans, all on plain FDCs: a 1964 Shakespeare featured a 'Visit Bath's Famous Assembly Rooms' and sold for £310; a 1966 Birds cover showed a 'Bedford Charter Celebrations' with a bird in the logo £160; and a 1975 Charity stamp cover with the unusual slogan: 'The RAF Benevolent Fund repays the debt we owe' which fetched £180. Official First Day Covers in the sale included a 1994 D-Day Gold Beach British Forces cover, signed by former Prime Minister John Major, which fetched £360 (pictured).

SOLD FOR £360

Spink recently sold a Barbados 1861-70 ½d stamp, featuring the famous portrait of Britannia, which had been prepared for use, but was not issued. Perforated 11 to 12½, the 'grass green' stamp was a lower right corner example, and was described by the auction house as 'the finest recorded example of this great rarity'.

**SOLD FOR £19,000**

Collectors of Gibraltar stamps had the chance to bid on items from the philatelic bureau's 1993-2009 archives at a recent Heinrich Köhler sale. Amongst the highlights was the original hand painted artwork by used for a 24p 'Exploding Atom' stamp.

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SPECIAL #277

The last regular issue that appeared during the reign of King George V was this set of eleven from 1935 (SG#341-351). It was produced by the American Bank Note Company. Each stamp is beautifully engraved. The 10¢ value shows a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman and has long been a favourite with collectors. Price for a superb unmounted mint set is just **£69.95**.

SPECIAL #278

After the death of King George V a new definitive issue was needed. Five new high values were issued in 1938 (SG#363-367). The designs depict scenes and buildings across Canada, including two harbours some six thousand kilometres apart - Halifax and Vancouver. I can supply a superb unmounted mint set for just **£99.95**.

SPECIAL #279

The events of World War II influenced this set from 1942. The designs show wartime themes and the King is dressed in the various uniforms of the military. Here is the complete set of fourteen (SG#375-388). Price for a superb unmounted mint set of the War Issue is just **£79.95**.

SPECIAL #280

Shortly after the war a new set of high values appeared, showing scenes or industries from various areas of the country (SG#401-406). Here is the complete set in superb unmounted mint condition. Price is just **£39.95**.



Special 277



Special 278



Special 279



Special 280



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Bonfire of the spacefillers

As we turn our thoughts toward Guy Fawkes night and putting things on the fire, columnist David Bailey has a modest philatelic proposal you might like to consider



Imagine it's 5 November 2016 – and in cities all over Britain, crowds of people are gathered around great big bonfires of stamps. Not the good stuff, the interesting stuff, the fine, well cared-for collectable stuff. The Royal Philatelic Collection, for instance, is safe. I mean the ugly, flawed and pointless rubbish that clogs up

auction rooms, people's attics and charity shops across the land.

On to the bonfire would go all the common stamps with weak corners, clipped perforations, thins, tears, creases, stains, rust spots, washed or faded colours and surface rubs. I've seen whole stockbooks full of Wilding low values with wavy line cancels; they could all go straight on the fire. QV stamps with 'killer' cancels are overdue for cremation; let's do it now. And the same goes for 1d plates with unreadable numbers, 'Average Mint' stamps encrusted with hinges – and all those decimal commemoratives with postcode slogan cancels. Yes, Royal Mail, we got the message – but it cost a decade's worth of ruined stamps.

We needn't stop at mainstream GB. British locals? Burn the lot. And every stamp from any other island with a population in single figures. Every stamp in the Gibbons' Appendices would go on too. Gibbons thought they were excessive; they were right. And there'll never be any evidence of real-world use. So chuck the whole lot on.

What about Soviet-block countries and their plot to destroy capitalism by flooding our markets with CTO stamps? Most of them relate to the countries that issued them and they did take pride in their designs – so they stay off the bonfire.

But every faked-up 'collectable variety', every intentional error and every set of progressive proofs would go straight on the fire. Legitimised printer's waste is not collectable. Bogus stamps from real countries are evidence of fraud. But once guilt has been established, the stamps can go to blazes. And as for bogus stamps from bogus countries – burning's too good for them. But it'll have to do.

Forgeries? Useful for reference. But facsimiles? On they have

to go. Once you go down that route where do you stop? A good looking album full of fakes.

And of course we needn't stop at the stamps.

There's all those cheap stockbooks with curving pages, so the stamps on one side won't come out and the stamps on the other side won't stay in. They will at least burn well.

Then there are all those ancient, picked-over albums with ragged binders, broken spines, yellowing pages and more hinge-remainders than stamps. There's nothing in them now worth having. Chuck 'em on.

All the schoolboy or schoolgirl collections can go on the fire as well. They all have much the same stamps in them and none of them are any good. What – even the albums with the child's name and address on the inside front cover – and the steadily growing total of stamps? They go on the fire with the rest of them. This is no time for sentiment.

*British locals? Burn the lot.
And every stamp from any
other island with a population
in single figures.*

Home made albums can all go on without a second's thought. Anyone too mean to spend a few pounds on an album will not be spending money on decent stamps. Circulated club books can go on the fire as well; a dozen keen and knowledgeable club members will have pored over these and extracted any good or useful stamps. Will there be anything of value left? Who knows? And it would only take one or two good stamps to repay the

purchase price. OK then, a last look through. Then on they go.

Old catalogues could be spared from the bonfire. But only to be burnt in the grate. The numbers will have changed; the values were a fantasy from the start and now inflation has made them meaningless.

Dealer price lists are different; these are real world prices for the day month and year; preserve them.

There are too many First Day Covers in the world; far too many to be burnt in a single evening. So let's start with anything dog-eared – or even slightly foxed – or hand written after 1960. And any cover with a fancy cancel but only one stamp from a set of five. They're all a waste of space. Burn them.

So what would we have left when the fires die down? A pile of ashes, few smouldering catalogues, some spring steel and ring binders from albums – and a hobby, purged of garbage, ready for a new start.

What do you think? Share your views using the address on page 4.

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You may only cast one vote; however if during the course of the competition you wish to know how your favourite stamp is doing, you can log onto the webpage again to see the latest voting figures.

Alternatively you can also place your vote by emailing us on info@sepacstamps.eu
(Simply add the country you would like to vote for on the subject line).

Q. How to Build a Good Stamp Collection?

A. (Hint) If it's easy – maybe it is TOO easy...

10+ 'TOP TIPS' for Successful Collecting

As many of you know I made the decision to give up collecting when I started full-time in the trade 43 years ago. But here's what I perceive as a mistake I made in terms of re-sale value and in enjoyment. If you are not bothered about **V A L U E** then you don't need to read further...

What I collected then was easy to source. It was good quality. They were (and still are) lovely stamps but they would be worth less now than when I collected and that's more than 40 years ago. The basic mistake I made then was thinking that 'easy' made for a good stamp collection. Yes, 'easy' made for a lovely collection but I could buy those same stamps – in the **SAME** quality – from any number of different sources. I still can today ... so if I can buy them easily today – will their value have appreciated? Has demand for what is/was easily available increased? The answer is a firm **NO**.

TIP As an 'aside'. In particular be wary of 'inertia' selling delivery systems – where you pay on direct debit / standing order system / monthly invoice. These systems usually hide the highest mark-ups in our industry and the lowest recovery value when it comes to sale. You are going to find this story particularly incredible – but about 13 years ago I was once called to clear a house-full of stamps. The owner had died leaving many 100's of unopened New Issue delivery envelopes. I opened one of the oldest envelopes. Inside was a note from the supplier saying sorry they

had not delivered the MINT 1929 PUC £1 ! Ah well, I thought "such is life" – the collection included both mint Wembleys + literally masses more. Imagine my surprise when the next envelope opened included a MINT PUC £1 with a note saying "we found one for you" (and then the realisation that this High Value stamp had lain inside the same envelope for so long that it had a large brown 'rust-spot' on the reverse!

Returning to subject: So, what forms the basis of a **GOOD** stamp collection if I want '**resale VALUE**'?

TIP 1). The answer is, as usual, a combination of factors ... BUT, if you think in terms of desirability and then dial in quality ... this makes for a collection that others will wish to purchase. Of course collecting means that some of the stamps you source will be easily available ... but if **ALL** the stamps you collect are easily available and on average they cost very little each ... then you may have 1,000's of different stamps whose value lies in the actual handling cost of the supplier – not in their intrinsic value. So when it comes to selling this may result in little / no interest. Of course it goes without saying **TIP** – Always collect the Best quality that you can afford.

Where Do I Source Good Stamps ?

2). Sadly, in some senses, the Philatelic World has changed. Gone are the days when in 1980 100,000 different Collectors descended upon the 1980 International Stamp Exhibition at Earls Court. I know because I was there. An International Stamp Show in the 'west' today may be lucky to see 10,000 visitors. A stamp fair today in a local village / town may be lucky to see 30 visitors let alone 20 actual buyers ... when you consider that 15 dealers may have travelled to such a venue – is it any surprise that many Collectors may see the same stamps they saw at that same venue a month before?

3). No, the answer is that Stamp Collecting is alive and well – stamp shops are almost non-existent, fortunately there's still a few left – but 'underground' – on-line, by mail-order and at auction things are still 'humming' depending upon whom you are dealing with. So, let's look at potentially / probably the biggest sourcing area of the

hobby apart from retail which is fairly self-explanatory ... and that is bidding / buying at Stamp Auction.

4). **Nowadays there are three types of stamp auction:** – Pure Internet / Public - (including on-line bidding) / Postal (Mail-Bid Sales – including on-line). Each has its strengths and weaknesses. Let's start with Pure Internet live auctions, I won't mention names but in some senses these are today's equivalent of the 'Wild West'. As fast as these internet Giants catch up with the some of the crooks using them, the crooks move a step ahead ... many internet bidders using them are 'hooked'.

TIP 4a). They have become 'live auction obsessed' unwilling / not capable of looking elsewhere – thinking that bidding / buying this way guarantees value which it does not. What happens when they come to sell?



GB SIDELINES

Delegate books and folders



Little has been written on these fascinating and intriguing delegate books and folders. They were souvenirs produced by postal administrations to hand out to delegates at international philatelic conferences. Inside the book or folder was a selection of recently issued stamps by that country, either in stamp mounts or hinged. These delegate books ranged in design from hardback books, paperback booklets or larger folders, which contained smaller booklets inside. They were not available to buy and produced in limited numbers, so can be difficult to obtain.

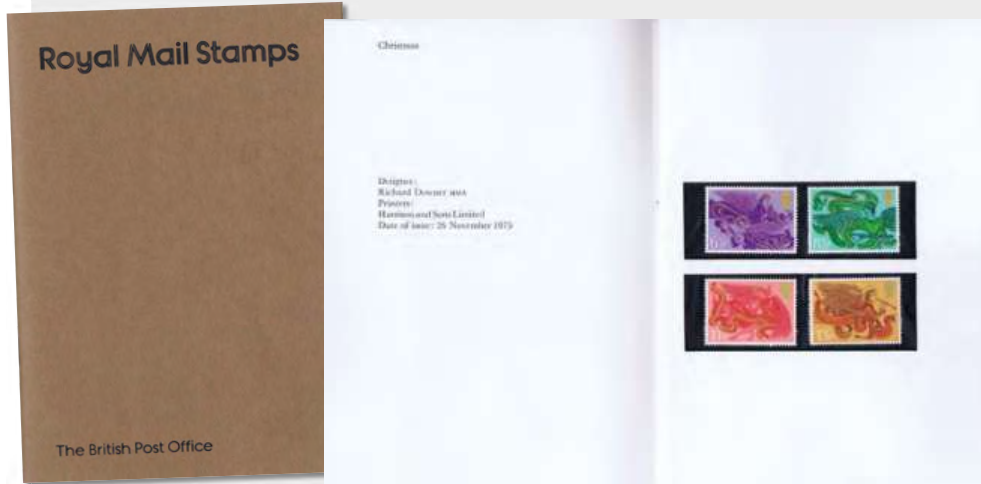
The oldest example we have seen with GB stamps is the 1947 Atlantic City Delegate Folder. This delegate folder was presented on the occasion of the Conferences of the International Telecommunication Union in Atlantic City, United States of America, 1947. The folder contains seventeen postage stamps from 1/2d to 10/- . However, there are delegate book examples from other countries, such as Japan, dating back to the late 19th century.

The books were also a chance for the postal administrators to promote new stamp types. For example, in the 1959 Geneva delegate book there are details on the trialling of special graphite-lined stamps to be used by a new machine called a British automatic letter facer.

The 1982 Vienna delegate book is the most recent GB example we have observed. This hardback book was presented to delegates at the CEPT Plenary Assembly held at Vienna on 14-25 June, 1982. It consists of nineteen pages with stamp sets from London 1980 to the 1982 Theatre Europa issue.

Due to the scarcity of these items, the price of delegate books has risen in recent years.

Discover more about Delegate Books and Folders by checking out the Packs & Cards website www.PacksAndCards.com or call: 01252 360530; email info@packsandcards.com; Packs & Cards, Oaklands House, Reading Road North, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 4AB.



From top: The cover and inside pages of the 1947 Atlantic City Delegate Folder; cover and inside pages of the 1976 Berne Delegate Booklet Folder

POSTMARKS

The European Bread Museum

The Great British Bake Off has returned to our television screens and judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry are already setting complicated bread making tasks for the contestants, writes David Gwynn. This set me thinking about a postmark from Germany that I had squirrelled away in my collection.

Dating from 1981 the postmark celebrates ten years of the European Bread Museum at Mollenfelde. The postmark is oval and is illustrated with the Museum's crest which includes an ear of wheat and some distinctive loaves of bread. The card carrying the postmark also has a red circular cachet featuring the crest and the legend 'Europäisches Brotmuseum'.

Today the Museum is in a new home in a former stately home at Ebergotzen in southern Lower Saxony. Here visitors can follow the history of both grain farming in Europe and the history of bread making. There are reconstructed early ovens, a windmill and a watermill, bread wagons and other related machinery and implements.

Britain does not seem to have a dedicated bread museum, yet Germany has another three in addition to this one. Greece also has a European Bread Museum, and there are others scattered throughout Europe. Plenty of inspiration for Mr Hollywood and Mrs Berry and their fiendish challenges!





CINDERELLAS

Eaton's stationery labels

It has long puzzled me that people who have the bright idea of advertising their wares or businesses on the backs or bottom left-fronts of postal envelopes should then mar the impact by using poster stamps or advertising labels that miss a golden opportunity to attract attention. Their advertising material ranks as inferior when compared, for instance, with that of the postage stamp accompanying it on the envelope, writes Ed Fletcher.



One from the set of ten issued by Eaton's Fine Letter Papers in 1939

Nobody could lay that charge against the Eaton Paper Corporation, issuers of a set of ten labels which made their appearance at the 1939 New York World's Fair; not on sale, but giveaways to every purchaser of a box of Eaton's stationery. Each stamp depicted a subject familiar to New Yorkers: Central Park, Brooklyn Bridge, a liner steaming past the Statue of Liberty, an aircraft passing over Manhattan's skyscrapers, a Pennsylvania Rail Road train arriving, and more, making them a striking advertisement for the vibrant city, with the legend Eaton's Fine Letter Papers along the top of each label.

They very soon joined the ranks of highly desirable United States Cinderellas, with collectors attracted by their rich colours and even more by the high quality of their engraving. A closer look at the very bottom of each label showed who was responsible for that immaculate workmanship, the American Bank Note Company, the engravers who gave us classic stamps such as the 1860 Queen Victoria, Nova Scotia 8½ cent. Little wonder that Eaton's Stationery Labels were so eagerly snapped up and so many stored in albums rather than stuck on envelopes.

Their engraved and printed excellence gave rise to a small problem a decade and more later when the New York World's Fair of 1939 had faded from memory, and at about the time when the US Post Office began to issue an increasing number of commemorative stamps not too dissimilar in size to Eaton's giveaways. Perhaps while rummaging through their stationery cupboards for stamps to fix to letters, absent-minded junior clerks seem to have decided the labels that fell from boxes of Eaton paper must be recently issued commemorative postage stamps. Many were pasted on top right-hand corners of envelopes; and enough went through sorting office hands to form a highly desirable group of postally used advertising labels. Lesson: if you plan to enter the stick-it-on-an-envelope poster stamp revival, engage the very best engraver and printer your budget allows.

Thanks to Steve Levine (slwarking on eBay.com) for use of the image. See his online eBay shop for more interesting items

POST & GO

Post Office Kiosks

In 2008 at the Post Office in the Galleries at Bristol a kiosk, or machine, was installed that weighed letters and small parcels and dispensed stamps, it was supplied by the German IT company Wincor Nixdorf, writes Stuart Leigh. Over the next few years they appeared at some 200 post offices across the UK.

To start with they issued five denominations of stamps: 1st Class to 100g, 1st Large to 100g, Europe to 20g, Worldwide to 10g and Worldwide to 20g. Stamps were printed in strips of a maximum of five, which was fine, until the Birds designs came along with six different images!

In October 2011, when a sixth value was added to the range (Worldwide to 40g) the software was modified so that a strip of stamps 'For The Collector' was an available option on the menu which gave one of each value in two strips of three.

It was at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, at the end of February 2014 that a new generation of Kiosks supplied by NCR Corp (originally known as Nation Cash Register). This machine has two printers and two reels of stamp as well as the six standard stamp values, they can also dispense 2nd Class and 2nd Large. In addition they can dispense a whole range of 'Open Value' stamps for letters, parcels, including Special Delivery, Tracked, Signed For, and differing VAT codes. Put simply, the NCR machines can process almost all Royal Mail and Parcelforce products that are usually available at the Post Office counter. They are known as Self Service 'Postal Kiosks' (SSKs), however a post office person needs to be available at all times to sanction some of the services.

During 2014 the NCR machines started to replace the Wincor Nixdorf machines and by early 2015 the last one was retired to the BPMA for posterity. There are currently over 500 kiosks in nearly 200 locations across the UK.

Following trials, at Crewe and Bradford North in February 2015, a third design of machine has been installed at Royal Mail Delivery (or Enquiry) Offices. The kiosk from Crewe has been relocated to Mount Pleasant EO, with others at Kingston upon Thames, Croydon and Doncaster EOs. This range of machines is known as the M (or Mailcentres) Series, and is supplied by Intelligent AR Ltd.

In addition to the facility of having two reels / printers the M Series can perform other functions. These machines also accept payment for 'Postage Due', VAT and Customs Duty. A receipt is issued, that can then be given to the office staff for collection of the letter / package. It is envisaged that further duties will be available in the future.

These machines or kiosks are the only ones that have been used by the Post Office and Royal Mail that are available to the general public on the high street. There are quite a few more that have been used at exhibitions, stamp shows and museums, which will be detailed in a future issue.



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FIRST DAY COVERS

The Prince's paintings

As mentioned in previous FDC columns, I think you can tell when a cover producer really knows what they are doing, writes Brian Austin. This 1994 issue marked the 25th Anniversary of the Prince of Wales Investiture and each stamp featured one of his paintings. Rather than get a postmark at one of the places featured on the stamp, the dealer here went for a name connection and found a Post Office in Prince Charles Avenue in Derby, he could have also chosen Mount Charles or Princeville, and they all sell for around £15.

Any issue with a Royalty connection would, of course, start a hunt for Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle CDS postmarks which both sell for around £75.

Those keen-eyed readers may have spotted that the cover also has another £1.50 Castle High Value (Caernarfon Castle, which matches the illustration). This was added to make up the rate to get it registered and receive a CDS postmark, but does not leave space for the registration label which is on the back; the label is one of the big blue ones they had started using



and, with the Guaranteed Delivery sticker, covers nearly the whole back of the cover. Strictly there should have also been blue lines on the cover, but maybe they were let off putting these on.

FORGERIES

Cheap fakes from the sheikdoms

The stamps of Trucial sheikdoms are likely amongst the most disliked in the world of stamps, writes Keijo Kortelainen. Though true that the various philatelic agencies involved flooded the stamp markets with huge numbers of new issues that saw very little if any postal usage, I've always felt a bizarre personal attraction to these stamps, but I was very surprised when I started discovering various forgeries.

As an example I've chosen a 1971 Ajman stamp commemorating the 13th World Scout Jamboree but plenty of other agency issues exist as similar forgeries in large numbers.

The genuine stamp (on the left) has comb perforation of 14½ and is printed on what I'd describe as regular stamp paper. The design appears very sharp and detailed, and filled areas, such as the blue border, are solid.

The forgery (on the right) has been printed on somewhat thick and glossy paper with line perforation of 10. The output appears blurred, and if looking at filled areas a very rough half-tone pattern is clearly visible. Very likely these forgeries are based on a photocopy of the original.

It may seem totally unexplainable why stamps such as these would be forged, but I think the reason is two-fold.

Firstly, most of the original stamps were printed for the stamp trade and as such the forgeries were likely manufactured to overcome a shortage of the originals. Even though these stamps would sell



at a penny a piece inside a stamp packet, there's still some profit to be made because printing them is even cheaper.

Secondly, Ajman (and other Trucial sheikdoms) are literally speaking 'dead countries'; there is very little chance of getting caught or facing legal claims made by the issuing authorities. In the end there are very few people who study and collect these seriously enough to notice these forgeries, but these examples demonstrate that absolutely anything can and will be forged.

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SCM



Military mementoes

As Stamp & Coin Mart and the British Forces Philatelic Service launch a limited edition commemorative cover to mark Remembrance Day, we speak to Darrell Drury of the BFPS to discover the history of the military covers and find out what makes them so unique

Earlier this year Royal Mail celebrated fifty years of special stamps as it looked back on the designs issued in 1965 to celebrate the country, its people and achievements. It was during this period that the British Forces Post Office began its working relationship with Royal Mail, launching its own philatelic bureau with its own separate branch within the Postal and Courier Service.

This bureau closed in 2012 and since then the Forces Philatelic Bureau has been outsourced as now part of the British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS), a registered Community Interest Company. The philatelic organisation was set up by two retired officers to ensure the provision of a military philatelic service and to benefit the community it serves, our Armed Forces' charities. BFPS operates under licence from the MOD and BFPO and is authorised to use the British Forces Postal Service commemorative handstamp and military insignia allowed under its MOD licence.

From its founding in 2012, BFPS has set out to commemorate military and state occasions. Some 42 commemorative covers have been released, marking events such as Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the 75th Anniversary of the Dambusters and, more recently, the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. BFPS has subscribers and customers from around the world who regularly access the online shop to purchase these special covers.

'We work closely with sponsors to produce covers to commemorate an event or an anniversary,' explains Darrell Drury. 'We are busy planning our events for next year as well as pencilling in possibilities for the following five years.

Our current projects for the immediate future include further commemorative covers to mark the centenary of key events during the First World War.

'I became involved with BFPS through my hobby of collecting Royal Engineer first day and commemorative covers,' Darrell continues. 'I have around 560 covers in my collection and whilst I was collecting these I discovered that there was nothing I could use as a reference to find out more about my collection. So I built a website (www.refdc.co.uk) that shows every different Royal Engineer cover that I knew was out there. It is a "work in progress" as covers come up from time to time that I have not seen before.

'One evening back in February 2012 I received an e-mail from Graham Meacher about refdc.co.uk which led onto a discussion about BFPS and its future. The next thing I knew was that I was invited to work with Graham and Denis at BFPS in helping to set up and manage the BFPS website. My collecting hobby has never been the same since. Things have moved on in these three short years and I have now become more involved in the business from website, marketing and occasional liaison with potential customers.

'BFPS offers collectors a small slice of military history,' says Darrell. 'By buying a cover from us you are not only buying into the actual event but, more often than not, the historical moment itself. Where we can, we get the covers handled, flown, carried and signed by those people taking part in that piece of history. Our online shop bears witness to that.'

For Darrell, the BFPS offers something a little different to other first day covers, being the only postal authority, apart from Royal Mail, to be able to use special handstamps to cancel

Above, from left: recent covers include BFPS 3163 recalling Operation Chastise of 16-17 May 1943, signed by Prime Minister David Cameron; BFPS 3181 commemorating the redesignation of the Desert Rat and signed by Len Burritt the 'first Desert Rat'; and BFPS 3192 marking the 200th anniversary of the charge of the Scots Greys, signed by Lt Col Ben Cattermole MBE

Stamp & Coin Mart subscribers can purchase BFPS covers with a special five percent discount by quoting the code: 'SCM5' on the website: www.bfps.org.uk Offer valid until 7 November, 2015

UK postage stamps. 'That not only makes us different but unique,' he says. 'This uniqueness is what attracts many collectors. Over the years BFPS special handstamps have become the standard "must-have" on military-related covers. Many thousands of covers have had a BFPS handstamp used on them. Our latest BFPS serial number of 3195 shows that it has been a very long tradition for military covers and one that we intend to keep going.

'I can say honestly that when I look at the covers we have produced not only does each tell me a story, but also I get an immense feeling of pride from being involved in their production. Perhaps the most notable for me were two sets we produced; one being the set of three for the 70th Anniversary of the Dambusters Raids and the other set being for the 200th Anniversary of Waterloo. There were stunning images on both sets. However, our latest cover "BFPS 3195 - We Will Remember Them" has taken the lead for me with its image of original artwork "The Poppy Tree" by the Army Artist Richard Salter. This image truly invokes the Act of Remembrance for me.'

Find out more at: www.bfps.org.uk

Claim your FREE limited edition cover

Stamp & Coin Mart have worked with the BFPS to produce a special, limited edition commemorative

cover featuring Richard Salter's The Poppy Tree artwork, worth £20. Join Stamp & Coin Mart and we'll send you a cover free of charge. **But hurry, there are only fifty covers to be claimed.** See page 56 for full details of this exclusive offer.





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The secret's out...



After a strict embargo, we can now reveal full details of the 'Long to Reign Over Us' miniature sheet issued by Royal Mail on 9 September to celebrate the Queen becoming Britain's longest reigning monarch

Thanks to a press embargo from Royal Mail and 'the Palace' last month we were left in the frustrating situation of having details of the secretive miniature sheet released on 9 September to mark the Queen becoming Britain's longest reign, and not being able to publish images or complete descriptions. With the landmark behind us and the miniature sheet released, we can now bring you full details.

The miniature sheet commemorates the Queen becoming Britain's longest reigning monarch on 9 September, when she surpassed Queen Victoria's reign of 63 years and 216 days, and the first of the five stamps gives a nod to Elizabeth II's great-great-grandmother. The first of the three 1st Class values, the stamp shows William Wyon's City Medal, featuring a portrait of the then fifteen-year-old Princess which would later be adapted for use on the famous Penny Black stamp in 1840.

Moving along the sheet we next see Dorothy Wilding's three-quarter profile photograph of Her Majesty which was one of a series taken in April 1952 and was printed on British postage stamps from 1952 until 1967. The first definitive stamps of the Queen's reign are widely known as 'Wildings' as a

result of the photographer's work.

The third 1st Class stamp will be more familiar to the general public, as it features the ubiquitous Machin definitive design first introduced in 1967 and based on a sculpture by Arnold Machin. For the special occasion this version of the stamp is coloured purple and features an iridescent overprint reading 'Long to Reign Over Us'. According to Royal Mail this definitive will replace the current red version for the next twelve months.

Two £1.52 values complete the sheet. The first shows the Badge of the House of Windsor, featuring a depiction of the Round Tower of Windsor Castle flying the Royal Standard. The badge was approved by King George VI in Council at Buckingham Palace.

The second £1.52 stamp features the design from the Queen's Personal Flag which was designed at Her Majesty's request in 1960 to be displayed in Commonwealth countries. The design features a gold 'E' with a crown, surrounded by a garland of roses, and symbolises the Queen's role as Head of the Commonwealth.

The stamps went on sale on 9 September at www.royalmail.com/theroyalconnection. The usual selection of philatelic souvenirs are

Stamp details

Issue date: 9 September, 2015

Design: Sedley Place

Printer: International Security Printers,

Print process: Intaglio and iridescent ink; Machin definitive by gravure

Perforations: 15 x 14

1st Class – William Wyon's City Medal

1st Class – Dorothy Wilding's three-quarter profile of Queen Elizabeth II

1st Class – Purple Machin design

£1.52 – The Badge of the House of Windsor

£1.52 – Queen's Personal Flag

Note: all four larger stamps also feature the Machin head



available with the issue, including a presentation pack; first day covers; six stamp cards, including one card showing the full sheet; individually numbered Press Sheets containing four Long to Reign Over Us miniature sheets, limited to 2,015 copies; a retail stamp book; coin cover; and even a framed version of the miniature sheet priced at £15.

Of course, Royal Mail have released other unannounced stamp issues in the past, most notably for sporting victories, including the 2005 Ashes win and Andy Murray's 2013 Wimbledon triumph. This latest miniature sheet might not have been the most well kept secret, with schedules and postmarks hinting at the stamp issue, and Royal Mail, it seems, may have been preoccupied with the even more top secret Star Wars issue. As detailed elsewhere in this issue, you can claim your free Star Wars postcards with the December and January issues of *Stamp & Coin Mart*.

For your chance to win one of ten 'Long to Reign Over Us' presentation packs, courtesy of Royal Mail, simply answer the question below:

On what date did Queen Elizabeth II become Queen?

Enter online at: www.stampandcoinmart.co.uk

Closing date: 13 November, 2015.

Postal entries also accepted, please quote code SCM2081.

Winner picked at random from correct entries. Editor's decision is final.





MAIL THE FORCE

Royal Mail's new Star Wars stamps are set to be hugely popular with collectors and fans of the film. In the first of a two-part guide to the issue, we detail the eighteen stamps that will perhaps be used to send British post to locations 'far, far away'

It may be thought of as an American franchise, created by California's George Lucas, starring US actors such as Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher, and recently bought for an eye-watering \$4 billion by Disney, but the Star Wars film franchise has strong links with Britain, as Royal Mail are keen to point out with this ambitious set of stamps.

'Disney's decision to base production in the UK is a major contributor to the British film industry,' a Royal Mail press release reads. 'Not only is it providing employment and exposure for British acting talent, it also employs the British technical expertise in set design, cinematography, and costume design at Pinewood Studios. In the field of digital special effects, London is already a world centre, and the effects for the new Star Wars film have been created by the London office of Industrial Light & Magic (Lucasfilm's special effects company).'

Yes, this stamp set has its sights set on non-collectors, with fans of the films sure to be tempted to dip their toes into the world of stamps for the first (and one hopes not the last) time, but that's no bad thing. Royal Mail have followed the lead of the US Postal Service, whose hugely



successful Star Wars stamps were issued in 2007, but they haven't 'gone to the dark side', the stamps bring more attention to the hobby and don't detract from any other, more philatelic, traditional issue.

Stamp details

The Star Wars characters are depicted across twelve 1st Class stamps, priced at £7.56 for the set, each showing the denomination in the familiar Star Wars font, while a miniature sheet (£3.78) includes another six 1st Class values depicting vehicles from the films.

The artwork for the twelve stamps has been created by British artist Malcolm Tween, and fans of the older films will instantly recognise nine of the popular characters shown. Three of the stamps, meanwhile, show

Stamp details

Star Wars

Issue date: 20 October, 2015

Design: Interabang (illustrations by Malcolm Tween)

Printer: International Security Printers, lithography

Stamp Size: 35mm x 35mm

- 1st Class - Darth Vader (Corner Image: Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader)
- 1st Class - Yoda (Corner Image: Yoda & Luke Skywalker)
- 1st Class - Obi-Wan Kenobi (Corner Image: Obi Wan Kenobi and Luke Skywalker)
- 1st Class - Stormtrooper (Corner Image: Darth Vader and Stormtroopers)
- 1st Class - Han Solo (Corner Image: Chewbacca)
- 1st Class - Rey (Corner Image: Rey and Bb8)
- 1st Class - Princess Leia (Corner Image: R2D2 and C-3PO)
- 1st Class - The Emperor (Corner Image: Anakin Skywalker)
- 1st Class - Luke Skywalker (Corner Image: Obi Wan Kenobi & Luke Skywalker)
- 1st Class - Boba Fett - (Corner Image: fellow bounty hunters Dengar, Ig-88 and Bossk)
- 1st Class - Finn (Corner Image: Rey and Finn)
- 1st Class - Kylo Ren (Corner Image: Captain Phasma)

Miniature sheet

Issue date: 20 October, 2015

Design: GBH

Printer: International Security Printers, lithography

Stamp Size: 35mm x 35mm

- 1st Class - X-wing starfighters (two stamps) (60mm x 21mm, landscape)
- 1st Class - AT-AT walkers (41mm x 30mm, landscape)
- 1st Class - TIE fighters (new) (27mm x 37mm, portrait)
- 1st Class - TIE fighters (classic) (35mm x 37mm, portrait)



characters from the forthcoming *The Force Awakens* film, to be released in cinemas on 17 December. Incorporated into each stamp is a secondary character or scene forming 'unique images that can be found nowhere else.'

The twelve stamps feature Darth Vader, the villain of the original trilogies who was played by British actor David Prowse but voiced by American actor James Earl Jones. In the background we see Vader fighting with Luke Skywalker, in a scene from *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980). Vader also appears on the stormtrooper stamp, the cloned white-clad soldiers in stark contrast to their leader's black outfit.

Other Jedi knights to grace the stamps include the diminutive but once powerful Yoda, again Luke is seen in the background sitting with his teacher. Obi Wan Kenobi, played famously by another Brit, Alec Guinness, is seen in his familiar Jedi knight robes and, in the background, fighting Darth Vader. Obi Wan joins Luke for one of the most evocative designs, set on Luke's home planet of Tatooine. Our final Jedi is Anakin, Luke's father, who is seen on one of the darker stamps, the nefarious Emperor in the foreground.

The round-up of characters from the original trilogy is completed with Han Solo and faithful co-pilot Chewbacca; Princess Leia, with droids C3PO and R2D2 in the background; and bounty hunter Boba Fett, a favourite amongst fans, with other mercenaries lining up beside him.

From the forthcoming film we see Kylo Ren, a 'dark warrior strong with the Force', with Captain Phasma, a female character who wears a silver stormtrooper uniform, played by British



actress Gwendoline Christie, in the background. Finn, a 'trained warrior desperate to escape his past' played by British actor John Boyega, is seen twice on one stamp; and 'resilient survivor' Rey, played by London-born actress Daisy Ridley, with new 'astromech droid' character BB-8 in the background completes the list of featured characters.

The new stamps celebrate what many might consider to be an American film, but the majority of characters shown are played by British actors



The type face for the 'st' of the 1st value is the familiar font used in the Star Wars logo

With two more films to come in the latest trilogy, plus a series of one-off movies promised for years to come, one wonders if Royal Mail may update the set in the future.

Miniature sheet

The six-stamp mini-sheet celebrates the vehicles of the galaxy far far away: Resistance X-Wing Starfighters, Han Solo's Millennium Falcon, Tie Fighters, X-Wing Starfighter, First Order Special Forces Tie Fighters and the four-legged At-At (All Terrain Armoured Transport) Walkers. Each of these 1st Class stamps is a different size and combine to create a dynamic collage with the Death Star in the centre.

Related collectables

The presentation pack for the issue includes the twelve stamps and the mini sheet, and the carrier is designed as two separate halves, describing the Light side and the Dark side of the force – don't miss your chance to win a presentation pack in next month's issue, which will also include ten free Star Wars stamp cards, courtesy of Royal Mail. A series of first day covers, including medal covers, and a full set of stamp cards are also available, and will be detailed in our round-up of philatelic souvenirs in December's *Stamp & Coin Mart*.



NEXT MONTH:

Don't miss your **FREE Star Wars stamp cards**, courtesy of Royal Mail, with the December issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*. **PLUS**, we detail the many Star Wars philatelic souvenirs offered by Royal Mail and provide a thematic guide to science fiction on stamps.

Commemorative Jersey Stamps

Links with China – Garden Flowers

Issue date: 22 September 2015

Six beautiful stamps drawn by stamp artist Martin Mörck and painted by Wang Huming in Beijing, China feature flowers enjoyed in the gardens of both Jersey and China.

The two stamps featuring the Chrysanthemum and the Peony have also been presented in a Souvenir Miniature Sheet, together with a poem written by Li Bai, one of the greatest poets in Chinese literary history.



My Jersey Issue date: 9 November 2015

Ten non-value indicator stamps feature the winning entries from a Design a Stamp competition for which the people of Jersey were asked to design a stamp illustrating what the Island means to them.



Jersey Seasons: Autumn

Issue date: 15 October 2015

The second in a four part series showcasing the Island through the seasons, eight stamps capture Jersey bathed in an autumn light.



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Perhaps then they realise that only some of what they may have glistening is 'gold'. Indiscriminate internet auction bidders buying 1,000's of low price items ... may have spent large sums IN TOTAL ... but may not have created desirable collections. The cost of a low priced item is the labour and cost of selling it. Nothing changes when that item comes to being re-sold.

TIP 5). Now let's look at Public Auction. Yes – you will be hard pressed to find a Public Stamp Auction that does not accept on-line / live internet bidding. As with 'Pure Internet' stamp sales – and perhaps even more so – 'Caveat Emptor' (buyer beware becomes even more the mantra. Generally individual lots may have higher average values so that lots offered are often higher value collections, accumulations or higher value sets / singles / rarities. Such auctions are the 'haunts' of dealers and astute buyers ... but risk is attached, plus the absence of guarantees and the pernicious unpleasant buyer's premium + other charges which at certain auctions can convert a £1000 stamp purchase into as much as an invoice for £1,300.

TIP 5a). There are bargains to be had – but it is very much a 'big boys' playing field. Some of these auctions deliberately under-estimate lots that they know are worth far more ... so that they can then have the dubious pleasure of publicising that a £1,000 estimated lot realised £10,000, when perhaps their knowledge suggested it should have been estimated at upwards of £5,000 in the first place ... (hence – how wonderful they are).

TIP 5b). For certain types of lots such as actual Collections offered fairly intact the absence of guarantee combined with unreliable estimate means that for those who do not physically view a Public Stamp Auction and bid 'blind' – this is a dangerous place to be. Of course this may work to the advantage of an astute bidder who is actually present to physically view lots in the auction room. Historically that person was usually a Dealer. Perhaps less so these days.

TIP 6). Finally we come to look at Postal Auctions/ Mail-Bid Sales. First I must profess that I have an interest in a Mail-Bid / Postal Auction Sale. My company U P A conducts the largest postal auctions in the U K ... What should the Collector or Dealer be looking for here?

TIP 6a). Most good Postal Auctions including U P A offer Collectors a **No Quibble Refund Guarantee (NQRG)** ... and by 'No Quibble' I mean **NO QUIBBLE**. Look for this – it is crucial. You are probably not

actually seeing the stamps before bidding ... so no guarantee would mean unacceptable risk.

TIP 6b). Unlike Public Auctions most Postal Auctions 'break' many collections into smaller 'collector-sized' units so that you may find what you seek without having to purchase what you do not need - it follows that most of the stamps in most postal auctions may be owned by the company presenting the auction. It is not viable to sell low priced lots on a commission basis. Ask yourself why you may be asked to pay a buyer's premium? Is it actually a Vendor's lot or owned by 'The House'?

TIP 6c). The Buyer's Premium was introduced to 'split' cost between buyer and seller so that a 'low' seller's commission looks attractive (if you forget about the premium the buyer is paying for the seller's stamps). Be aware of this or deal with auctions not charging a buyer's premium. You are in control. You can bid anywhere that you find what you seek – but it is good to be aware and informed.

TIP 6d). Prices Realised are IMPORTANT. For some unknown reason – even some larger Postal / Mail-Bid Auctions still do not produce lists of what their lots sold for after the auction. Look for auctions providing this feature – it provides reassurance combined with a trackable 'snapshot' of current market values **PLUS** what is selling and what is not selling. You can learn such a lot from 'Prices Realised' – I study them each day.

TIP 7). Credit Cards. 75% of some auction sales are settled by credit / debit card. The Biggest in the land has no need to charge you for use of them ... Sheer volume of business accesses lowest rates. Why are you paying a premium to use your card? Is the supplier making a profit upon the extra % you are charged to use your card?

TIP 8). Look for unique 'Collector friendly' benefits that turn the disadvantage of lots not being sold to your advantage. U P A, for example, has for the past 15 years offered their Unique Reducing Estimate System (**URES**) whereby lots are increasingly reduced in estimate price till sold – some have reached one penny and then sold. Approaching one million lots have been offered through this system.

TIP 9). Cost of Delivery is one of the most annoying hidden costs that collectors absolutely abhor. Look for transparency in this area.

TIP 10). Beware the Seller / Auction NOT including Insurance when sending your winnings.

And Finally We come to choice ... and mind-set ?

TIP Without Choice we have nothing. So it follows that you need substantial choice to form a good, even great, stamp collection. You cannot do business when each time you 'visit' all you see is what you have seen before – stagnating stocks offered at prices that ensure continued stagnation. If choice is limited you'll never find philatelic items you need – or even that you were unaware of their existence. That's the joy of collecting. The thrill of the unexpected, the chance find. You need dealers that want to help and auctions that wish to serve – so, in stamps 'attitude is all'.

So when you're searching for a stamp auction compare it against your list above of what to look for and if and when you're offered a 'No Risk Free Trial' ... please consider – take it Now ♦



ISLE OF MAN

Island artist celebrated



Isle of Man Post Office has released a collection of ten stamps showcasing the varied works of one of the island's most distinguished artists, Bryan Kneale RA. The stamps, which mark over sixty years of artistic achievement, feature Kneale's work both on and off Island.

Bryan Kneale RA has been described as an elder statesman not only of British sculpture but also of Manx art. He is known in London as a celebrated sculptor, Royal Academician and esteemed lecturer whilst he has contributed to Manx cultural life through a range of public commissions sited here on the Isle of Man.

The examples of Kneale's work featured on this stamp issue include the large bronze '3 Legs of Man', a sight now familiar to those who pass through the Island's airport; the 'Deemster Fish' inside the Isle of Man Government building; and 'Horse', found at the Tate Gallery, London.

Born in Douglas, Kneale studied painting at the Douglas School of Art, graduating in 1947, he then moved to London where he studied at the Royal Academy Schools. During this time, he won the Rome Prize and spent some time living in Italy. Kneale became known as an accomplished portrait painter until, in the early 1950s, he was inspired by his brother-in-law to try welding and he moved from painting to sculpture, and became a teacher who taught at a number of highly respected colleges including the Royal Academy of Art, before retiring in 1995.

Kneale has exhibited widely and his work can be found in many prestigious collections around the world, including The Tate in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and, of course, Manx National Heritage on the Isle of Man.

Stamp details

Issue date: 1 October, 2015

Design: IOM Advertising

Printer: Lowe-Martin, offset lithography

Perforations: 14

Stamp size: 32 x 32mm

44p - Self portrait 1954

44p - Pendulum 1964

44p - The Watcher 1977

44p - Three Legs of Man 1979

44p - The Demster Fish 1996

44p - Captain Quilliam 2005

44p - Illiam Dhone 2006

44p - Triton III 2009

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A difficult homecoming

The Channel Islands hold a unique place in the history of the Second World War, being the only piece of British territory to be occupied by the Germans. While we are familiar with the plight of locals on Jersey and Guernsey, the difficulties faced by the entire population of Alderney is less well known, and is highlighted on a new one-stamp miniature sheet. At the end of June 1940, Alderney's entire 1,450-strong population was evacuated to mainland Britain or to Guernsey, leaving the island deserted when the Germans arrived.

During their occupation, the Germans attempted to turn Alderney into a fortress. Huge bunkers and gun emplacements, underground shelters and concrete fortifications were constructed along the coastline

and across the island. Three slave-labour camps – Lagers Borkum, Helgoland,

and Norderney – were set up to house mainly European workers, along with one concentration camp, Lager Sylt. Conditions were atrocious and it is estimated that several hundred people perished.

The islands of Guernsey and Jersey were liberated on 9 May 1945, whilst Alderney was liberated a week later on 16 May. Jubilant annual celebrations to mark the day the islands were freed still take place today in Guernsey and Jersey, although, perhaps reflecting the more sombre role of the island during the occupation, Alderney does not celebrate.

It was only in December 1945 that former residents began to return to Alderney; the homecoming was far from joyous, as Alderney was barely recognisable after five years of German Occupation.

As people began to settle into the long and traumatic process of clearing up and rebuilding not only homes and businesses but also the very fabric of day to day living, in some respects island life began to return to normal. However, many decided to leave Alderney for good, such was the impact of this dark chapter in the island's history.



Stamp details

Issue date: 10 November, 2015

Design: Robin Carter

Printer: Lowe-Martin, offset lithography

Stamp size: 72mm x 48mm

M/Sheet size: 85mm x 130mm

Perforations: 13.3

£3 - Alderney locals returning to the island via boat



My Jersey



Who better to sum up the highlights of life in Jersey than the islanders themselves? Jersey Post's 2014 Design a Stamp competition invited the island's residents to design a stamp which illustrates what the island means to them.

Entrants of all ages submitted designs using various forms of artistic media with entries including paintings, drawings, photos and digital artwork, sent in by individuals, schools and organisations around Jersey.

The designs were judged by a panel comprised of artist Nick Parlett (who has designed several stamps for Jersey

Post); Tim Brown, Jersey Post's chief executive officer; Jeremy Swetenham, commercial director at Jersey Heritage; and Pat Robson, director at the Harbour Gallery. The panel had the task of judging entries in three age categories: age eleven and under, age twelve to seventeen, and eighteen and over.

The ten winning entrants across the three categories had their design featured on either a local letter or priority letter stamp, which together form the My Jersey issue. The chosen designs feature many themes relating to life on the largest of the

Stamp details

Issue date: 9 November, 2015

Design: Winning entrants in a Jersey-wide design competition

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, offset lithography

Local letter – Jersey cow

Local Letter – Flower field

Local letter – Sailing scene

Local letter – Rock pool

Local letter – Seymour Tower

Priority letter – Puffin

Priority letter – Jersey Royals

Priority letter – Jersey Royal/ Cow

Priority letter – Sunset

Priority letter – Crest of Jersey

Channel Islands including wildlife, sailing, history, heritage, as well as the world-famous Jersey Royal potatoes and Jersey Cows, which have each made it onto two of the stamps.

Together, the ten stamps form a unique portrayal of Jersey as seen through the eyes of its own residents, and the colourful scenes are sure to attract attention from both stamp collectors and island enthusiasts worldwide.



Helping the nation's purse

The stamps issued by Britain during the post-war period proved popular with collectors and proudly showcased the nation's revival, but the issues were also scheduled with one eye on the potential revenue, as Paul Brittain reveals

In recent weeks a number of events have recalled the days that marked the end of the Second World War. What was to follow for stamp collectors were six active years from the British Post Office. While there was public demand for many of the sets, there can be no doubt that part of the motivation came from the Treasury and Board of Trade anxious to see dollar earnings from the export of stamps. The importance and value of stamp exports was seen from 1940 when the British Philatelic Association was approved as the 'clearing house' for philatelic exports.

Nevertheless, for a while the Post Office resisted requests for a stamp issue to mark the 'Victory'. Then the Government announced Victory celebrations over the Whitsun bank holiday in 1946, and pressure from the public grew. So the Post Office agreed, the issue to appear on Tuesday, 11 June, the day after the bank holiday. Discussion ensued about the values, with 2½d and 3d being selected. It was agreed that the stamps should mark 'peace and reconstruction' rather than 'victory': there was even a suggestion that the King's head be omitted, but this was rejected.

The following year, public opinion, and the need to earn valuable foreign currency, saw the Post Office heavily criticised for not celebrating with stamps the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. So strong were the feelings that consideration was given to marking the birth of their first child. However, while initially there was no thought about celebrating the Royal Silver Wedding in 1948, views changed, with two stamps issued on 26 April: 2½d 'for popular use' and £1 which 'will earn dollars'.



The Royal Silver Wedding stamps weren't the first GB issues to see King and Queen together on a stamp, but the two values marked a number of other firsts: the £1 value was the first British stamp to be designed by a woman, namely engraver and illustrator Joan Hassell, while this was the first set to commemorate a Royal, rather than a state, event

A few days later stamps were issued, on 10 May, to mark the third anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands. Much discussion had preceded this issue, and its ramifications. However, it was felt that two values, 1d and 2½d, could be justified and, sold throughout the holiday period, might boost the islands' tourist trade.

Since a very conservative stamp-issuing policy was still in place, even two special issues in one year was unprecedented, but the Olympic Games being held in London in 1948 could not be ignored, although the initial thinking was to have just two values, 2½d and 3d.

Four further stamps were issued in 1949. The resolution that 'Administrations of the Union' issue stamps to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union had been passed unopposed at the UPU Congress in 1947. On 5 December that year the British Post Office agreed to issue four stamps on 9 October, 1949, the actual anniversary. It transpired this was a Sunday, so the stamps were released on 10 October. This information was passed to the Colonial Office, so that colonial administrations could be similarly allowed to release special stamps.

With plans proceeding to mark the



centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851 by holding the Festival of Britain in 1951, it was the Treasury, at the behest of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that contacted the Post Office in December 1947. The suggestion was to issue a complete new set of definitives – clearly the financial considerations were still foremost. The objections from the Post Office were largely based on the difficulties of trying to deal with the design and production of new definitives, and releasing them on one day. However, it did agree to release two special stamps – 2½d and 3d – and to redesign the four high-value definitives – 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1, as revealed in our special 'stamp history' article on page 44. All these stamps were issued on the day the Festival was declared officially open: Thursday, 3 May, 1951. Sales of the special stamps exceeded £3million.

BRITAIN'S POST-WAR STAMPS

11 June, 1946	26 April, 1948	10, May 1948	29 July, 1948	10 October, 1949	2 October, 1950	3 May, 1951
Victory	Royal Silver Wedding	Channel Islands Liberation	Olympic Games	75th Anniversary of Universal Postal Union	Definitives (new colours)	Festival of Britain

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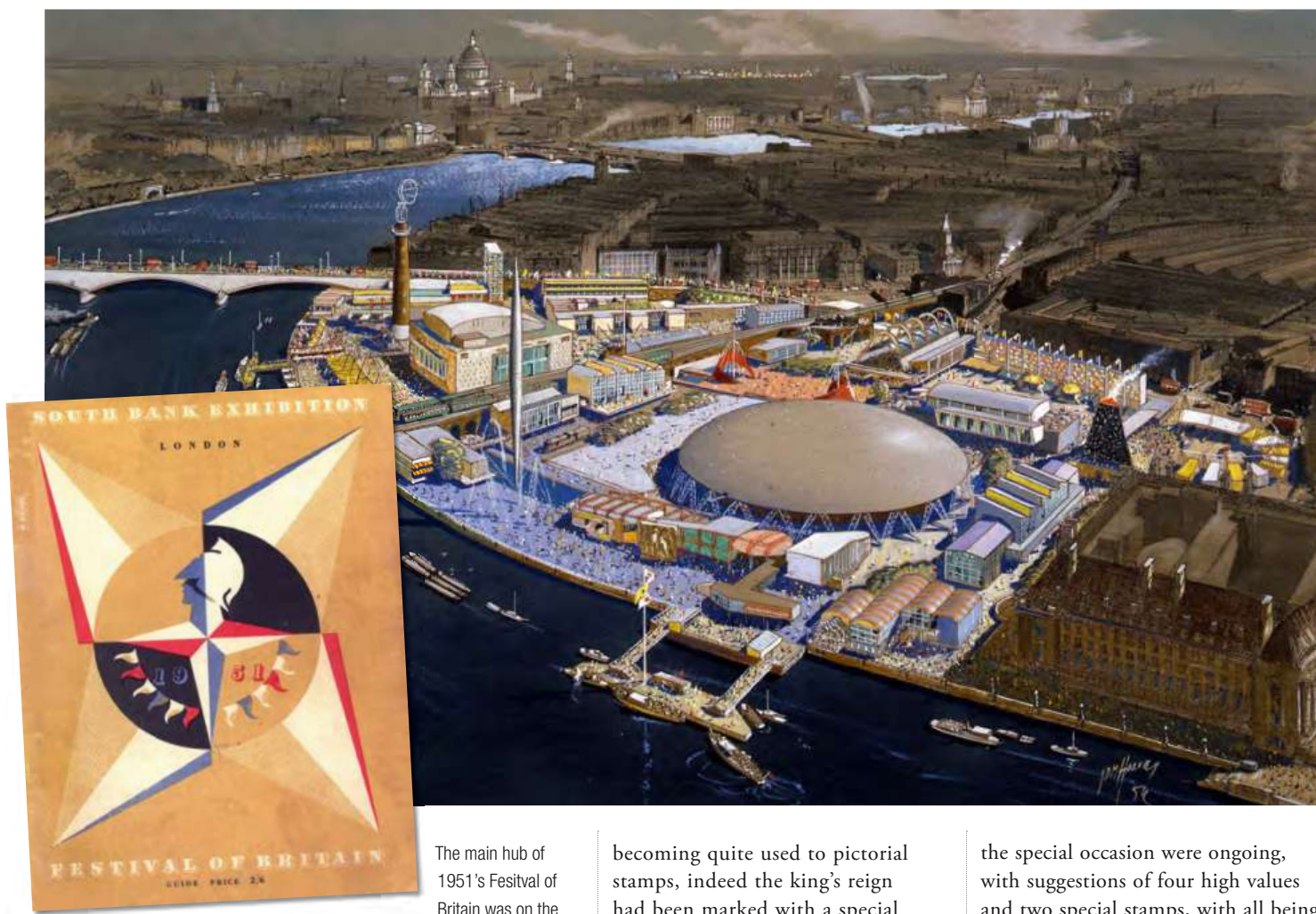
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Festival high values

The high values issued to mark 1951's Festival of Britain featured proud symbols of the country's defiance during difficult times, but thanks to the King's intervention, at least one of the designs was almost changed



The main hub of 1951's Festival of Britain was on the South Bank in London, but events took place across the country in a bid to promote Britain's contribution to science, technology, industrial design, architecture and the arts

becoming quite used to pictorial stamps, indeed the king's reign had been marked with a special coronation stamp in 1937, and events including the 1948 Olympics and the 75th anniversary of the Postal Union in the following year had also been marked with special stamps, the king's portrait vying for space amongst the increasingly adventurous designs.

In 1947, with a number of pictorial issues already in the pipeline, the GPO had been advised by the Council of Industrial Design (CoID) that the Festival of Britain would take place in 1951, a century after the Great Exhibition, and that a pictorial issue to mark the occasion would be welcomed. By the end of that year discussions on which values to use for

the special occasion were ongoing, with suggestions of four high values and two special stamps, with all being larger than normal stamps, giving designers plenty of scope to capture the sense of post-war optimism the Festival would promote.

Once the King had given his approval of the proposed new stamps, artists were invited to produce designs; the instructions deliberately omitted any suggestions of theme, giving the designers the freedom to come up with their own interpretations. This did not suit everyone, Abram Games, designer of the previous Olympics stamps, declined the invitation, stating: 'The subject matter is a little too decorative in theme for my particular technique. My own work seems to

Britain may have invented the postage stamp, but in the subsequent years the approach to stamp design was often very conservative; it was not until the 1924 British Empire Exhibition that Britain issued a commemorative stamp, King George V sharing the stamp with a proud British lion. Such was the stamp's success it was reissued the following year and Britain gradually became used to pictorial designs.

By the 1950s and the reign of King George VI, the public were



The final designs, including Mary Adshead's original depiction of HMS *Victory* on the 2/6 value, despite the King suggesting a more modern ship be shown. Adshead also designed the 5s value showing the iconic White Cliffs of Dover; Percy Metcalfe designed both the St George and the Dragon and Royal Coat of Arms designs. The stamps were printed by Waterlow with perforations of 11 x 12, a large GvIR watermark, and were officially issued on 3 May, 1951

demand a definite theme rather than a pattern.' Games did, however, produce the design for the 4d stamp, incorporating the festival's logo which he had also designed.

Nine artists and two print firms submitted a total of 38 designs for the high values. Artist Hans Tisdall wrote: 'This has been a very exciting task and I have consequently created a series with a strongly optimistic trend.' Meanwhile, Hugo Fleury explained that his design 'symbolises postal expansion from Allen's cross road scheme in Britain to postage across the world.' George Bellew resorted to oak leaves 'to represent

the British oak and the rugged determination of the British people,' while also creating an illustration of the Houses of Parliament, the 'nerve centre' of the British Commonwealth.

The decision to offer little guidance inevitably resulted in new designs inspired by previous stamp issues; St George and the Dragon reappeared from the PUC £1 of 1929 on no fewer than five designs. Dolphins from the George V ½d and 1½d resurfaced on designs by Percy Metcalfe and Ralph Lavers; the Lion, whose most distinguished previous appearance had been on

the Wembley Exhibition stamps of 1924 and 1925, now featured with or without its colleague the Unicorn on designs by Milner Gray, Stanley D Scott, WS Matthews and Metcalfe as well as two by Reynolds Stone. Milner Gray also produced a view of Windsor Castle reminiscent of the admired Silver Jubilee colonial issue of 1935.

After consultation with members of the CoID, the artwork was whittled down to a few potential designs, and it seems the clear similarities with previous stamp issues was not deemed problematic, at least for Percy Metcalfe's 'George

Postcards showing the 'Dome of Discovery' on the South Bank, and the King and Queen touring the exhibition





& Dragon' which was selected for the 10/- value without any alteration being required. After a number of redesigns and other suggestions Metcalfe's Royal Coat of Arms was also adopted for the £1 value.

Mary Adshead's depiction of HMS *Victory* in an oval frame was favoured and she was commissioned to produce a second design for the 2/6d. Tower Bridge and Westminster Abbey were mentioned as possible subjects, but it was agreed that a landscape image of Dover, with a view of the castle and famous white cliffs, would be a

suitable image to represent Britain's post-war confidence.

The King approved the designs for each of the four high value denominations, but suggested that the 2/6d should feature a more modern ship, specifically HMS *Vanguard*, Britain's newest battleship, launched in 1946. Mary Adshead was therefore challenged with updating her design with the newer ship, but soon wrote: 'I do not feel very hopeful about making a good oval picture.'

Despite assistance from various

Clockwise, from top left: George Bellew's rejected design for the 5/- value, with an 'Argosy-type merchant ship' representing trade and commerce; Bellew's rejected Houses of Parliament; one of the George and the Dragon designs submitted, this one by Enid Marx, which was rejected; WS Matthews' rejected design showing 'lion couchant' Left: Mary Adshead's sketch of HMS *Vanguard* suggested by the King

parties, including her artist husband and the Imperial War Museum, Adshead's concerns were proved right and the idea was eventually scrapped, Postmaster General Wilfred Paling stating: 'we had fully explored His Majesty's suggestion with the artist, but that it had not been found practicable to evolve a satisfactory design.' Paling was formally replaced as PMG while Mary Adshead's work on *Vanguard* was still in its earliest stages, making this one of his last and unofficial acts on behalf of the office.

Based on the BPMA's Stamp History, written by Giles Allen, 1996. Images copyright Royal Mail Group and courtesy of the BPMA.

1951 GVI Festival High Values



Designer details

Mary Adshead's first stamp design came when commissioned by the GPO to work on the UPU issue of 1949. As well as her success with the UPU 2½d and 1951 high values, her work was also featured on the 8d-11d definitives of 1953-54 and the World Scout Jubilee 2½d of 1957. She remained involved in stamp design for the GPO until 1963. She died in September 1995.

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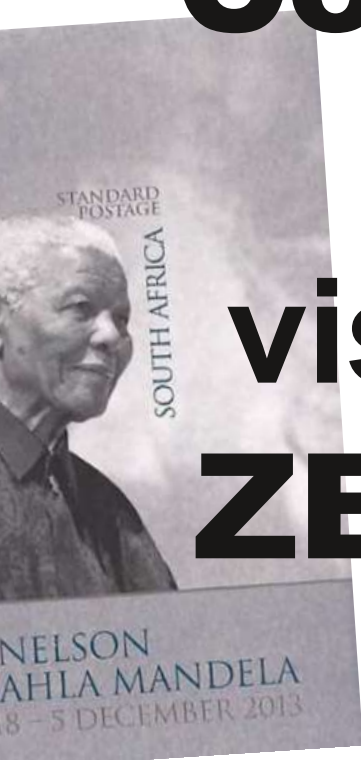


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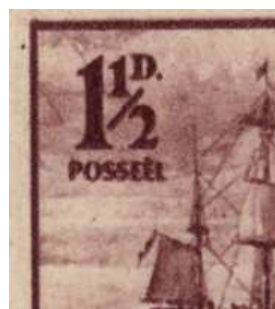


Sarawak 1923
1c/10c Sir Charles
Vyner Brooke 'cnet'
surcharge variety.
Scarce. SG72a. £550



African varieties

One stamp, two languages, and a long list of varieties. Like many South African stamps, this seemingly simple 1949 issue gives collectors a huge but enjoyable challenge, with plenty of different flaws to identify and add to your album. Richard Tarrant grabs his magnifying glass and invites us to join him for a game of 'spot the difference'



From top: standard pair of 1½d stamps without constant flaws; extended rigging on mainmast (row 14/2); pennant flaw (row 17/5); lightning mark in cloud behind the value (row 13/2)

A good example of South Africa's more intriguing stamps is the 1949 1½d issue commemorating the centenary of the arrival of British settlers in Natal. The stamp depicts the immigrant ship *Wanderer* landing at Port Natal, observed from the shore by a number of the local population.

The Government Printing Works in Pretoria printed the stamps in sheets of 120, with twenty rows of six stamps, each alternate stamp being in English or Afrikaans. They were printed by the rotogravure process, which has a tendency to produce printing flaws, both constant and transient. There were two different printings, both from screened cylinders that were etched from the same multipositive plate. One printing was produced from 'Cylinder no. 29', the other from 'Cylinder no. 7021', both in claret but stamps from the former are a distinctly darker shade.

The constant flaws can be grouped into three sections, namely those common to both printings because they emanated from the multipositive plate and those originating from each of the two cylinders. For a comprehensive listing of the constant flaws the best source of information is the Handbook/Catalogue of The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, unfortunately now

out of print. This lists no fewer than eighteen flaws, six of which originate from the multipositive plate and six each from each of the two cylinders.

Only two of the flaws on these stamps are listed in Stanley Gibbons (SG) sectional 'Southern Africa' catalogue, both of which are multipositive varieties. One flaw SG calls 'extended rigging on mainmast' and this can be found on row 14/2. The other is from row 17/5 and called the 'pennant' flaw.

As well as the two listed in the SG catalogue, other multipositive flaws are 'lightning mark in cloud behind the value' (row 13/2), 'large white spot on tail of S in SUID' (row 11/6), 'wishbone shaped cloud to right of mainmast and additional cloud flaw at top yardarm of foremast' (row 11/1) and 'mark leading upwards from cloud to top frame line at the right of the mainmast' (row 11/2).

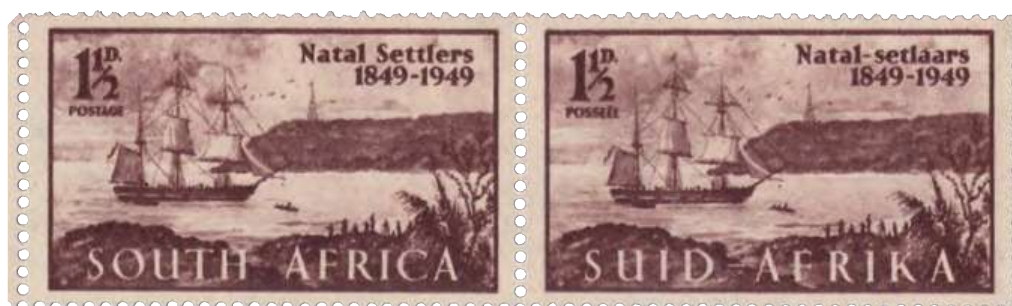
The stamps from Cylinder no.29 have a number of interesting flaws. They include the 'dot under 8 of 1849' (row 18/4), 'curved mark above the bluff under the numerals 49-19' (row 17/3) and 'hyphen between Natal and Settlers' (row 9/5).

Cylinder no. 7021 flaws include 'accent mark above r of settlers' (row 2/4). While flaws are often best seen on mint stamps, be on the lookout too for good examples on used stamps. On the block of four used stamps from cylinder no. 7021 illustrated, the upper left stamp has 'brown spot below POSTAGE' (row 11/5), while the lower right stamp has 'one large and two smaller spots between the land and ship' (row 12/6). As an added bonus the block has a first day cancellation.

More flaws

In addition to the constant flaws, there are many transient flaws. An example is illustrated on the Cylinder block, where the bottom right stamp has a clear vertical line passing through the ship and joining with the 'D' of 'SUID' in the stamp above.

This brief examination of just one single stamp highlights what interest there can be in South African stamps and how a collection can be formed on just one issue, with the many varieties displayed and explained across the album page.



From left: this example has the flaw described as 'wishbone shaped cloud to right of mainmast and additional cloud flaw at top yardarm of foremast' (row 11/1); the right stamp has 'mark leading upwards from cloud to top frame line at the right of the mainmast' (row 11/2)



Clockwise from top left: dot under the 8 of 1849 (row 18/4); curved mark above the bluff under the numerals 49-19 (row 17/3); accent mark above r of settlers (row 2/4); hyphen between Natal and Settlers (row 9/5)



Clockwise from top left: white spot giving appearance of central figure wearing white shorts (row 10/1); loose rigging mark under top yardarm of foremast (row 17/1); mark joining tail of flag to top of mainmast (row 18/3); large white spot on the tail of the S in SUID (row 11/6); one large and two smaller spots between the land and ship (row 12/6); spot below postage (row 11/5)

French Administration of Memel

Major wars and revolutions often created many short-lived countries, writes Michael Adkins, as he delves into northern Europe to the former Prussian area of Memel (today Klaipėda)

While the First World War is the most significant period

for this region, there are two different regimes which issued stamps specific to the territory. First, the French administration of Memel territory, from 1920 to 1923, covered in this article. Next month we will discuss the Lithuanian occupation from 1923 until 1924.

Memel (Klaipėda) is a city on the Baltic Sea which for centuries was an important and strategic trading port. Part of the Hanseatic League in the middle ages, it eventually became part of the Kingdom of Prussia in 1660. Memel later formed the eastern boundary of the German Empire.

After the end of the First World War, the treaty of Versailles detailed Germany's terms of surrender, including forfeiture of designated territory to its neighbours. In East Prussia, a large portion of land was given to help form the newly independent Poland, Danzig (Gdansk) become a Free City, and Memel territory was put under the protection of the Conference of Ambassadors, later part of the League of Nations. According to the treaty, Memel territory would be administered by France until final disposition was agreed. In 1920, French forces moved in to maintain order.



From left: issued on 1 August, 1920, these overprinted stamps were only used for 3 months, and were good for local mail sent in Memel, East Prussia and Germany; issued 12 September, 1922, features 'MEMEL' in italics. Overprints printed before the beginning of 1922 were not printed with an italic font; issued in July, 1921, 'FLUGPOST' was overprinted on regular issue Memel stamps. Note the non-italicized 'MEMEL' overprint underneath. This is the first of three different 'FLUGPOST' overprint used in Memel

During French administration, the idea of an independent Free State of 'Memelland', similar to Danzig, grew in popularity among locals. This, however, was unacceptable to the government of the newly created Lithuania, which desired access to the Baltic Sea.

In late 1922, the Lithuanians sent political activists into various towns and villages across Memel to stir up support for uniting with Lithuania. Their purpose was to organise supporters for the Lithuanian option into a political force. On 9 January, 1923, three years after the Versailles Treaty, Lithuania instigated the Klaipėda Revolt, mainly by militia that had entered from Lithuania. At the same time, France had just begun the big effort of occupying Saar in Germany, therefore French forces withdrew and offered no resistance to the Lithuanian troops that moved in.

Complex collecting

From a philatelic standpoint, postage stamps from the French administration period can be quite complicated. Beginning 1 August, 1920, German definitive stamps overprinted 'MEMELGEBIET' were issued for provisional use in the region. The stamps were only good for mail sent within Memel or to East Prussia and Germany. They were subsequently withdrawn for use on 31 October, 1920. Also, beginning 7 July of that year, French stamps featuring the sower and 'Merson' designs were overprinted 'MEMEL', surcharged in German currency and issued for broader use.

On 1 April, 1921, French officials increased postage rates, and two sower design stamps were overprinted with large numerals in black. The 10pf on 10c stamp was overprinted '15' and

the 40pf on 40c was overprinted '60'. Newly surcharged Merson design stamps were issued beginning May, 1921. These overprints began a long progression of issues which were surcharged with higher and higher values. Many of the issues include surcharges on surcharges.

Memel, as in other former German territories, suffered from rampant inflation in the post-war period. In fact, over the next year and a half, (until the Klaipėda Revolt) postage rates were raised ten times, resulting in the cost of mailing a local letter to increase from 15 pfennig to 40 marks.

To accommodate these rapid increases, French authorities surcharged new issues every few months. Strangely, several font sets, colours, shapes and sizes of the overprints were produced. To add to the complexity, there are many variations, plate flaws, errors and spacing differences to be found. Tracking down, identifying and collecting the many different varieties would be a challenging but interesting exercise. A good catalogue (such as Michel) or specialist materials are essential for identification.

Additionally, beginning on 31 June, 1921, air post stamps began to be issued by French authorities. The surcharged stamps were overprinted 'FLUGPOST', and in the eighteen-month period, three different distinctive overprint designs were overprinted in different colours. Again, varieties and flaws are frequent.

If one looks to collect stamps from the French administration of Memel, it would not be a difficult task to collect the 120 different main issues, but if you want to start the huge adventure of collecting the almost endless varieties, colours, errors and plate flaws, one could spend a lifetime.

Fact file

Government: League of Nations Administration, French

Prior Regime: German Empire

Key Dates:

June 1919 - Treaty of Versailles

February 1920 - France assume administration of Memel

9 January, 1923 - Klaipėda Revolt

19 January, 1923 - Lithuanian troops take control of Memel and rename it Klaipėda

Following Regime: Lithuanian Occupation of Klaipėda

First stamp issued: 7 July, 1920





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A new style for a new era



In his ongoing series revealing the intriguing stories behind stamp issues, Chris West describes the popularity of Art Deco designs in the early 20th century and picks out a beautifully designed Art Deco stamp from Mexico

The Art Deco style developed as a reaction to the fanciful, sinuous, vaguely decadent world of Art Nouveau. It was clean-lined, geometric, muscular, enthusiastically modern and often celebrated machinery or physical labour. It was optimistic: dating from the mid-1920s, it was a clear statement that the bad old days of the First World War and the depression that followed were over. It was ambitious: Art Deco was not just 'art' but used in architecture and industrial design. Londoners can see its influence in Battersea power station, Broadcasting House, and Charles Holden's tube stations on the outer reaches of the Piccadilly line.

Art historians enjoy arguing about when the movement began, but it first came to public attention in 1925, when the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes was held in Paris (celebrated in six stamps, one of the earliest sets of French commemoratives). The expo attracted designers from all over the world: Art Deco soon became a global style, and as such features on stamps of many nations. The Netherlands led the way: two stamps celebrating the centenary of the nation's lifeboats are pure Art Deco, and were issued the year before the Expo. France, Germany and Austria soon followed: Austria's

1925 Postage Due labels are classics. British stamp-design was late to adopt the style, but when we did, we did so with huge panache via Barnett Freedman's 1935 Silver Jubilees.

Art Deco was also embraced in Latin America – especially Mexico. The nation had endured two and a half decades of turmoil since a revolution had overthrown dictator Porfirio Díaz in 1910. Two presidents were assassinated, in 1920 and 1928. In 1934, however, General Lázaro Cárdenas took power and held onto it. He had a radical agenda. Land was redistributed to peasant farmers and the railways nationalised. Laws were put in place to protect indigenous minorities. The president halved his own salary and moved from the former presidential mansion, the magnificent Chapultepec Castle (now Mexico's Museum of National History). In 1938, the oil industry was nationalised. The new regime was authoritarian, corporatist and left of centre, but kept its distance from the Soviet Union: in 1936 Cárdenas welcomed Stalin's arch-enemy Leon Trotsky to Mexico – an unfortunate move for the veteran Bolshevik, as he was murdered there in August 1940.

Cárdenas' party, the PRI, would rule until 2000, though the General later became disillusioned with it. Unlike many world leaders, he did not use his position to line his pockets: on leaving office, he lived in relative simplicity, devoting himself to educational and



Francisco Eppens designed over 100 stamps for Mexico during the middle of the 20th century, often using the Art Deco style

land-improvement projects.

Art Deco, with its forward-looking, populist mindset, was an ideal house-style for the new government.

This stamp is by Francisco Eppens. Born in 1913, Eppens was a prodigy, enrolling in the National Art School aged fourteen. By the time he was 22, he was taken on by the Talleres de Impresión de Estampillas y Valores de México, designing stamps for the nation – it was 1935, and Cárdenas' new government wanted work with a fresh, young spirit. Eppens went on to design some of Mexico's finest stamps: the one above; the 1 centavo 'giant mosquito' anti-malaria stamp from 1939; the 5 centavo 'Helmsman' from 1940; the magnificent motorcyclist from the 1954 Special Delivery series; most famous of all, perhaps, the 1950 Air Mail (Correo Aereo) series featuring imagery from Mexico's vanished, rich past. In a long career, Eppens designed over 100 stamps, and oversaw the creation of as many more. He also redesigned his nation's coat of arms in 1968; this now features on Mexico's coins and its national flag.

Francisco Eppens designed over 100 stamps for Mexico during the middle of the 20th century, often using the Art Deco style

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Why is my business publishing this information?

I can remember the day I found my Father's stamp collection in the bottom drawer of the bureau in the dining room more than 45 years ago. Aged 11, I was excited travelling the world through his stamps. In those days every school had a stamp club and mine was no exception. I took the collection to school and joined the stamp club. When Mr. Armitage (the Chemistry Teacher who ran the club) asked what stamps we collected I said "Wurttemberg" – much to everybody's surprise. In fact they were from Austria and the page was misclassified. They were those imperforate 1920's Austrian Newspaper stamps which fascinated me and as everybody now knows are hardly worth anything ... but probably they helped me get started in stamps.

Over following years I found little help in understanding stamps, so much had to be learned the hard-way, which is why my company UPA publishes what I dare to hope are useful articles about collecting and buying and selling stamps. It is my hope that these prove valuable to you and that we may serve you if you decide to contact us ...

There are several different types of stamp businesses

In fact no two stamp dealers are alike. What a truism that is. Once in Amsterdam I made the mistake of admitting to the owner of the stamp shop I was visiting that I was a dealer. In almost perfect English "We Don't sell to Dealers" and he turned his back. So did I - as I left his shop. But over the years I discovered that the only way to succeed in stamps was to create a business of stamp selling systems and join them all together. This is what allows us to handle stamps from literally every single country in the world. Recently in coming articles which I shall call 'Case Studies' the strength of this business model has become apparent.

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Thank you for reading

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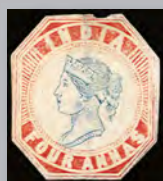
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Becoming Italy

Prompted by the article in our June edition describing the so-called 'Bomba Heads' stamps of Sicily, David Bailey examines more stamps issued by the Northern Italian States and finds many more classics to collect in the first of a two-part guide

Before 1861, 'Italy' was a concept not a country. Since the fall of the Roman Empire, the peninsular and its islands had been split into dozens of shifting entities, some ruled from home, others from France, Austria, Constantinople and even, in Sicily's case, from England. But the introduction of postage stamps happened in the uneasy period between the First War of Independence in 1848 (which failed) and the Second War from 1859 (which succeeded). It's the birth of a new country, as recorded by its stamps.

SARDINIA

January 1851

King Victor Emmanuel II

The first state to issue stamps was the confusingly-named Kingdom of Sardinia. Their territory and population was mostly in the Piedmont area of Italy, where the House of Savoy had been a power in

Struggles to form a unified Italy began as early as 1815, but it was not until 1871 that the Kingdom of Italy was officially founded

MODENA. Five cents on green from the first setting, from the top left corner of the sheet and with no full point after the figure of value; this fine cover was estimated at \$400 to \$500 (£319) in a recent Robert Siegel Auction

the land for centuries. In 1850s, it had a Parliamentary-style Government under Victor Emmanuel II and his Prime Minister Count Cavour. Count Camillo Benso di Cavour had travelled extensively in England and France, and he was determined to modernise his own country, reforming agriculture, building railways and opening stock exchanges in Genoa and Turin. Postal reform along English lines was very much a part of this process and that meant a set of stamps. At first, they looked to France for a printer, but high prices and an

ongoing trade dispute put them off, so they chose a jobbing litho printer in Turin called Francois Matraire.

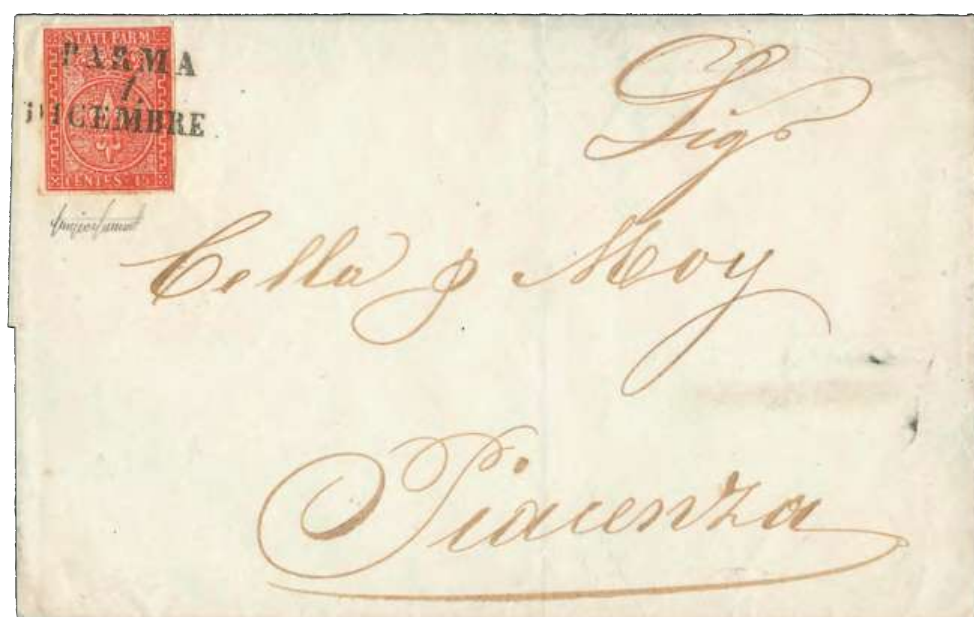
Trials and triumphs

Matraire responded with a simple design to be printed in three colours: 5c black, 20c blue and 40c pink. Each design was drawn separately onto stone by Matraire himself and there are minor differences between them. He also incorporated 'secret marks' for security.

Two of the pearls in the design have no shading, above the T of Poste and seventh from bottom of the right hand frame.



Above, from left: PARMA. A dangerous forgery of the rare 80c provisional issue (image courtesy of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle); SARDINIA. A fine four-margin copy from the 1851 set, printed entirely by litho. It had a base price of £40 in a recent Italy & Colonies Study Circle Auction, the Gibbons catalogue value is £300



The stamps were an immediate success and demand increased rapidly. This called for a measure of mass-production when it came to making new plates and print quality suffered, so the secret marks were not always apparent. Concerns about counterfeiting would be best addressed by line-engraved printing, but no-one had the machinery. So Matraire came up with the next best thing: blind embossing. The entire design, lettering and all, would be impressed into thin coloured paper: impossible to forge or clean and re-use. The State invested in new machinery and printing started in 1853, with a 5c blue-green, a 20c blue and a 40c in pale rose. However, quality suffered again in mass-production; the embossing is not always clear and the paper was prone to split. Postal workers also had a problem distinguishing the 5c and 20c stamps in poor light. Matraire could hardly abandon embossing, there was too much money invested in it. So from 1854, the third Sardinian issue used a combination of embossing and lithography.

The paper was printed with coloured borders before the head and figures were embossed. This was better: clear colours for the values and a forgery-proof head. However, it failed to solve the problem. The figures were still hard to read and in later printings, the green became bluer and the blue became greener. There were also problems with

register: getting the die-stamping in the right place on the sheet.

And so Matraire came up with a revised design, where the border was printed by letterpress, the lettering was reversed out and blind embossing was used for the head only. This worked. As far as stamp production was concerned, Matraire had successfully re-invented the wheel. The fourth Sardinian issue ran from 1855 until 1863. It was used in Sardinia and in territories captured by its army. It also formed the basis for the first Italian stamps. The original values: 5c, 20c and 40c were joined by 10c, 80c and 3l values. There are many different shades, inverted heads and some stamps were printed by lithography when the letterpress machines were busy, so there is near-infinite scope for study.

PARMA. A fine four-margin copy of the 15c red on a neat cover to Piacenza in Sardinia. This cover was estimated at \$150 to \$200 (£128) in a recent Robert Siegel Auction

PARMA. The simplified design of the 1857 set on cover to Milan. This highly desirable cover was estimated at \$750 to \$1,000 (£640) in a Robert Siegel Auction

This is one of the world's great classic stamp series and deserves a place in any collection.

TUSCANY

April 1851

Grand Duke Leopold II

Grand Duke Leopold began as a reforming head of state, who had drafted a new constitution and allowed a degree of press freedom. However, he was always overshadowed by the power of Austria, which limited his scope for reform. He supported Sardinia against Austria in 1848 and found himself in exile afterwards. But in 1849, he was re-instated on the throne with Austrian support. These were confusing times.

The Austrians were rapidly becoming the postmasters of Europe. Since launching their own stamps in 1850, they had created issues for Lombardy and Venetia and organised the Austro-German Postal Union encompassing the Empire and the German States.

Next, they wanted to organise an Austro-Italian Postal Union, to stimulate trade and consolidate their hold over the peninsular. The Tuscans would be the first to join.

Tuscany already had an efficient system of couriers, so this was just a matter of rationalising weights and prices, and printing the stamps.

Tuscan currency at this time was a complicated affair, with four different units in circulation. 1 Tuscan Lira was equivalent to 12 Crazie, 20 Soldi or 60 Quattrini. The stamps are



denominated in the last three of them.

All stamps featured the symbol of Florence, the lion of Etruria, also called the Marzocco – curiously, in Tuscan slang today, the word means ‘idiot’. The stamps were printed by letterpress in Florence. But in the interests of economy, 240 stamps were crammed onto each plate, so the margins between them are tiny and four margin copies are hard to find. The paper for the first issue is hand-made and of good quality but varies in colour from grey to blue. It is watermarked with twelve large crowns. From 1857, the lower values were printed on a poorer quality paper with a different watermark of wavy lines and lettering. Colours from this issue are more muted than before.

Provisional Government

In 1859, the Sardinians and French declared war on Austria. Leopold II came under intense pressure, first to join their side in the war and then to abdicate altogether. He refused and was deposed in a bloodless coup. A provisional government was set up. A plebiscite was held and Tuscany prepared for a merger with Sardinia and the new Italian State. This meant a change of currency as well as change of dynasty and the existing dies were hurriedly adapted to meet the demand for new stamps. The Tuscan lion and lower value tablet were literally cut out and replaced by the Arms of Savoy and the new currency of Lire and Cents.



They were still being used long after the formation of Italy, as late as 1863.

MODENA

June 1852

Duke Francis V

Modena was the smallest of the Italian States, just 6,000 sq km, and formed part of the Este family estates. It also came into the Austrian sphere of influence and therefore under pressure to join the Austro Italian Postal Union. The Ducal administration fussed and procrastinated but eventually, with Tuscan help, they produced a set of stamps. The design featured the arms of the Este family and the four values were printed in black on coloured papers. The inscription reads ‘Poste Estensi’; Modena was

SARDINIA. The second Sardinia issue was embossed on coloured paper. This exceptional 20c blue on cover was estimated at \$500 to \$700 (£445) in a recent Robert Siegel Auction

still a family business.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 240, comprising four panes of sixty stamps. There are two versions of the figures of value, with and without a full point at the end. There are also large numbers of constant varieties: these can now be accurately ascribed to their positions on the plates.

In 1859, the French and Sardinian armies defeated the Austrians at the battle of Magenta. Duke Francis fled into exile and a provisional government was set up to prepare for a merger with Tuscany and Parma and eventual incorporation into a new Italian State.

Supplies of Sardinian stamps were delivered, to replace the Este family crest. But these proved to be



From left: SARDINIA. The third Sardinian issue was litho-printed with a coloured frame, then embossed, this is the 5c green; SARDINIA. The fourth issue combines fine die-stamping with letterpress printing; a classic set; TUSCANY. A 6 Grazie in slate on grey paper from the first Tuscan issue; TUSCANY. The 5c green from the Provisional Government set, with changed currency and the Arms of Savoy (images courtesy of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle)



insufficient and a provisional issue, using the same six values as Sardinia, was rushed into production. This set is very rare in used condition, in fact all the used stamps of Modena are among the most expensive of the Italian States.

PARMA

June 1852

**Duke Charles III,
Duchess Marie Louise**

The Duchy of Parma just exceeded Modena for surface area but had a smaller population. It was owned and ruled by the Bourbon family and it, too created postage stamps in response to Austrian pressure. They rejected Parma's first design as being too easy to forge, so the final design features the Bourbon crest, the Fleur de Lys, in a Greek-style border with a crown above and an intricate background of fine lines. The stamps were printed by letterpress in sheets of eighty clichés set in a wooden frame. There were four panes of twenty stamps and the value tablets were individually hand set.

The first set of five values was printed in black ink on coloured paper. The second set, from 1853, features coloured inks on white paper. Both issues vary in print quality from good to dreadful. Variations in ink and paper are partly to blame but the fine lines of the background would tax the skills of any general printer of the day.

On 26 March, 1854, Charles III was stabbed in the street by an

SARDINIA. Stamps of the fourth issue show considerable variation in shades. Image courtesy of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle

anarchist called Antonio Carra and later died. His son, Robert, was still only six years old, so Charles III's wife, Marie Louise ruled as Regent.

By 1857, the stamp printing plates were becoming badly worn. But rather than re-make them from the original dies, they decided on a new, simpler design, very similar to the stamps of Modena and using the state's full name 'Duchy of Parma and Piacenza'. The basic set has three values in coloured inks on white paper. The stamps were printed in sheets of 72, without panes. But print quality is, again, variable.

In the war of 1859, Sardinian troops crossed the border into Parma and were largely welcomed by the inhabitants. Marie Louise resigned in favour of a provisional government and went into exile in France.

From this time, the stamps of Sardinia began to be used in Parma, but the merger would not be official until after a plebiscite. So Parma's newspaper stamps were hurriedly adapted to produce a provisional set of five. This set produced one of the great rarities of world philately: the 80c. Only eight copies are known and only one has been found on cover.

Parma became part of the Kingdom of Sardinia in March 1860.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to the Italy & Colonies Study Circle and Robert Siegel Auctions for information and images used in this article.

NEXT MONTH: We continue our guide to the stamps of the Italian States, examining the issues of the Southern region of Italy

Collecting the stamps

Many ordinary collectors are wary of the Italian States due to their high catalogue values and a reputation for forgeries and reprints. The good news is that every stamp from every issue has been thoroughly studied and researched and there are whole libraries of reference books to consult. This means that no reputable dealer or auction house has any excuse for selling forged stamps and expert certificates can generally be trusted.

As with GB, exceptional stamps and covers will always fetch top prices but there is much affordable, collectable material out there too; just get familiar with your chosen area before splashing out. The website www.italianstamps.co.uk has some fine examples of most types and see www.antichistati.com for a detailed background and descriptions of each issue. I'd also recommend joining the Italy & Colonies Study Circle (declaration of interest: I joined two years ago), their members are a fund of knowledge and their auction a reliable source of affordable material.

EXP 14. THE BRITISH - ICELANDIC EXPEDITION A scarce expedition cover for the British - Icelandic expedition of 1981. This is the official illustrated cover flown from the UK to KEFLAVIC (Iceland) and bears the P.O. expedition postmark. The cover has been additionally signed by Mike Todd, (Chairman of the B.S.A.C.) An important postal history cover for sale Price £12.

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The story behind the covers

In a special feature for *Stamp & Coin Mart*, Richard Tarrant provides a personal account of his postal history collecting, explaining how three simple covers led to him discovering the fascinating life of the recipient



One of the pleasures of collecting covers, particularly perfin covers, is the interest that can be derived from finding out about the sender. On occasion, there is also interest to be gained from researching the recipient, as I found recently.

A member of my local stamp society was selling some covers at a club evening. I bought three of the covers from the 1950s, the initial attraction being that each cover had a different perfinned stamp. The covers identified the users of the perfins as United Dairies, the Royal Borough of Kensington, and Patent Steam Carpet Beating Co. Ltd.

When I got the covers home and studied them more closely I saw that all three had been addressed to one Miss JA Hanafy. A quick trawl of the internet showed quite a lot about Miss Joyce Amina Hanafy, information that I added to with subsequent purchases of letters and bills that she had accumulated.

Joyce Hanafy was born in Jarrow in 1922. Her father was an Egyptian doctor who practised as a GP in Jarrow, while her mother was English. At some point Miss Hanafy had been accepted by Durham University for teacher training. During the Second World War, while at Durham, she had been invited by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) to train for service as a field agent. Miss Hanafy undertook training but was not selected for active service. While thought to be intelligent, very capable and fluent in French her personality was not

The three perfin covers that began Richard Tarrant's research into the life of Joyce Hanafy

Richard was intrigued by the three perfin covers and began to research the life of the covers' recipient

thought to be suitable for a field agent role.

The 1950s saw Miss Hanafy in London, living in the top floor flat in 61 Palace Gardens Terrace, Kensington. In 1983, Greater London Council sited a blue plaque at number 61, noting that Percy Wyndham Lewis, a painter and writer, had once lived there. I also found that the American poet Ezra Pound has also once been a resident there.

Stamp glossary

Perfin - a stamp featuring initials or a name perforated across the design, often used by businesses to avoid theft and designate stamps for business use.



In 1951 she was invited to audition for any suitable roles on television... back then only nine percent of British homes had a television set

Much of the correspondence I acquired related to Miss Hanafy's activities as a member of Equity in earning a living as a singer and dancer. In June 1951 she was twice invited by the BBC to audition for any suitable roles on television. If this sounds vague, bear in mind that in 1951 television in the UK was still very much in its infancy, with only two transmitters (near London and Birmingham) and only nine percent of British homes owning a television set. There were also invitations to attend auditions for Theatre Royal Drury Lane productions, as well as an invitation to audition as a dancer in a touring production of *The King and I*. Miss Hanafy also worked as a photographic model.

There were a number of letters from her stepmother, Flo. Miss Hanafy's mother, Agnes, had died in 1936 and her father had gone on to marry Agnes's sister Flo. The letters gave family news from Jarrow and Flo often enclosed cuttings from newspapers relating to people that Joyce would have known there.

There were also letters from friends in the entertainment profession, some of which were themselves an entertainment. One in November 1954 stated: 'Well, I am still out with this tour of 'Witch Errant' and, for my sins, am stuck this week in miserable Sheffield, which is a dirty, smoky, smelly dump. Still, my digs are not too bad, so I suppose the week will go fairly quickly.'

A multitude of documents

Miss Hanafy was obviously a hoarder. In addition to letters from friends and family, she kept milk bills, as well as electricity, telephone and carpet cleaning bills. It is thanks to this kind of ephemera being retained that I had the opportunity to buy the three original covers.

There were many 1960s estate agents' listings of properties for sale, often with a note added by Miss Hanafy to indicate that they were too expensive or too far from where she wanted to live. At some later point Joyce Hanafy moved to a house in Putney before having to move into a nursing home in Wandsworth, London. The only correspondence I came across that involved Putney was a 1975 letter to Flo from a friend. I presume that at this point Flo and Joyce were living together.

Miss Hanafy died in the Wandsworth nursing home in 2006. She had been quite secretive while in the nursing home and little was known about her, for example, whether she had any relatives. Her only recorded asset was the house in Putney, which was valued as being worth a million pounds in spite of it being run down and in need of urgent renovation. It was necessary to trace any relatives who should inherit the house and a firm of genealogists and probate researchers, Fraser and Fraser, was appointed to investigate. They co-operated with

Researching the covers

My first port of call in researching the three perfin covers I bought from my stamp society colleague was the internet, writes Richard Tarrant. A google search led me straight to the website where Fraser and Fraser, the heir-hunting firm, described their task and how they set about uncovering the story behind Miss Hanafy's life.

The internet also led me to eBay, where a seller was advertising a few items of correspondence to Miss Hanafy, which I bought. A further conversation with my stamp society colleague revealed that she had dozens more such items of correspondence and again I bought them from her.

I was intrigued by Miss Hanafy's involvement in training to be a field agent during the Second World War and the internet led me to The National Archives, where I found reference to her training for that role. I ordered a copy of the Special Operations Executive personnel file on Miss Hanafy, which became public record in 2008.

The internet again proved useful in looking at 61 Palace Gardens Terrace, not least because of the Greater London blue plaque.

I cannot stress highly enough how internet use can enrich stamp and cover collecting. The information that can be found can add so much interest, whether as background to the subject in question or to enhance one's understanding.

Joyce Amina Hanafy, who died in a nursing home with no apparent relatives, but whose life is proving fascinating to researchers today

the BBC in making an episode of *Heir Hunters* and what they found was intriguing.

A lady's age

Miss Hanafy's death certificate recorded her as having been born in 1952 and therefore 54 when she died, the age that the nursing home had assumed was correct. Investigation led to proof that she had been born in 1922, not 1952, so was some thirty years older than she had claimed. I found a further indication that Miss Hanafy was prone to shave years off her real age in a Wages Inspectorate form that she had completed in 1956 and kept. In it she gave her year of birth as 1928.

Eventually, the probate researchers located Miss Hanafy's heirs in Egypt and were able to close their case. For my part, three straightforward perfin covers had brought to my attention a woman whose life was fascinating. All in all, an interesting recipient that made my three perfin covers come alive.



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Calais: port of transit

Postal historian Dane Garrod examines and explains the postal markings on a cover that travelled from London to Württemberg via Calais in the mid-nineteenth century, containing an important family document that has fortunately survived

Before she died in 1558, Queen Mary I vowed that Calais would be inscribed on her heart, as this last bastion of English lands in France was lost in the time of her brief reign.

Calais has often been the scene of troubles, not least in the present decade, as well as other times such as during two world wars. The cover shown and discussed here travelled through that city in 1869, as even then it was the gateway between England and the European continent.

Before the advent of transportation of mail by air, generally beginning after the First World War, letters and parcels crossed the English Channel by boat to be usually landed at a French port before taking a rail journey to their destinations in Europe. The cross-channel journey would be uneventful, as traditionally Britain had control of the seas.

In terms of collecting postal covers in years gone by, those that were and are of a size beyond the width of a stamp album page were shunned. If they were added to a collection, they were placed on the page in a diagonal way, so that the viewer turned his/her head somewhat to read. This practice has changed so that covers of longer size are now mounted in landscape format. The cover reviewed is one such sized, and even now, they can be found at stamp fairs and dealers' boxes, having been passed over by many collectors.

The addressee, Commander Theophilus Moultrie Kelsall, who was always known by his second name of Moultrie, entered the British Royal Navy in 1846 at the age of fifteen. His service record shows he served on at least nine different ships between 1852 and 1866, including serving as a Lieutenant on board HMS *Trafalgar* in the bombardment of Sebastopol. Before he took his final command as Coast Guard commander at Ramsgate in 1870, he decided to marry, and this cover relates to that event. It encloses his two-page marriage certificate from Stuttgart in Württemberg, written in English as the event took place in the 'House of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation'. The five witnesses included CE

Wellesley, a relation of the Duke of Wellington. Moultrie Kelsall was required to advise the British Admiralty of his marriage to Marie Anna Brutzer on 27 April, 1869, and after his despatch of the certificate to them in London, this cover was returning it to him in Stuttgart, probably at the address of his wife's parents.

The pre-printed cover with the embossed seal of the Admiralty on the envelope flap, and the word 'ADMIRALTY' on the front, has the initials 'nad' (1) of the Admiralty clerk who wrote the address. Additionally, there is a pale blue handstamp inscribed 'ADMIRALTY WHITEHALL' (2). As this was official mail on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty, a red round 'LONDON OFFICIAL / PAID' and dated handstamp of 3 June, 1869 (3) was applied before despatch. A second mark appears at the base of the envelope which suggests a pile of letters were handstamped in quick succession with occasional carelessness. This envelope was pre-paid to destination, and so two red oval 'PD' marks (4) were also applied. By the following day, landfall had been made in Calais as the black double-ring handstamp marked 'CALAIS' (5) confirms. The next journey, by rail, was via Strasburg, receiving on the reverse a bahnpst mark (6) of the Strasburg-Mühlacker line on 6 June, prior to arrival in Stuttgart. The whole journey took perhaps 72 hours, and although 146 years ago, is comparable to what would be achieved today. The location of the application of the additional transit marks of 'D4' and '16' (7) on the reverse are uncertain, and perhaps a reader can let us know what they might refer to.

To complete the story, let me add that the vast accumulation of the Kelsall correspondence that covered the period from at least 1851 to 1926, and kept in the Commander's final home in Westward Ho! in Devon, was apparently not wanted by the family descendants. Placed on the open philatelic market some years ago, it is much dispersed, and covers, with their letters inside, can be found out there now.



1 The pre-printed cover with the embossed seal of the Admiralty on the envelope flap, and the word 'ADMIRALTY' on the front, has the initials 'nad' of the Admiralty clerk who wrote the address.

2 A pale blue handstamp inscribed 'ADMIRALTY WHITEHALL' indicates that this was official mail on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty.

3 The 'LONDON OFFICIAL / PAID' handstamp of 3 June, 1869 was applied before despatch. A second mark appears at the base of the envelope which suggests a pile of letters were handstamped in quick succession with occasional carelessness.

4 This envelope was pre-paid to destination, and so two red oval 'PD' marks were also applied.

5 The cover arrived in Calais the following day where the black double-ring handstamp marked 'CALAIS' was added.

6 The cover travelled by train via Strasburg, as shown by the 'Strasburg-Mühlacker' marking.

7 The location of the application of the additional transit marks of 'D4' and '16' on the reverse are uncertain.

WORLDWIDE SETS

M=MINT U=USED S/S=SHORT SET M/S=M/SHEET

'66 AJMAN	CHURCHILL SG 79/86	(8)	U 125P	'68 MONACO	NULLIUS ABBEY	(5)	M 135P
'09 AUSTRALIA	'FAVOURITE STAMPS'	(5)	M 242P	'68 MONACO	RED CROSS - ART	(1)	M 75P
'74 BELGIUM	VAN GOGH SELF PORTRAIT	(1)	M 58P	'95 MICRONESIA	DOGS	(4)	M 175P
'00 CABODIA	VINTAGE CARS	(6)	U 84P	'69 MONGOLIA	OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS	(8)	U 49P
'93 CUBA	WATER BIRDS	(6)	U 72P	'81 NIGER	ANIMALS - BIRDS	(6)	U 88P
'71 CZECH	PRAGUE CASTLE ART	(2)	U 125P	'39 NORWAY	QUEEN MAUD S/SET	(3)	14 45P
'84 DJIBOUTI	BUTTERFLIES	(5)	U 82P	'62 PAPUA	S.G. 28/31	(4)	U 39P
'69 FALKLANDS	BISHOP STIRLING	(6)	M 125P	'67 PAPUA	BEEETLES	(4)	M 75P
'66/7 FRANCE	LARGE ART STAMPS	(10)	M 120P	'69 PAPUA	ORCHIDS	(4)	M 95P
'49 G.B.	U.P.U.	(4)	M 30P	'62 PHILIPPINES	ORCHIDS	(4)	M 75P
'77 GIBRALTAR	BIRDS FROM SET	(2)	M 115P	'66 POLAND	WOODLAND BIRDS	(9)	U 65P
(2)'P, 6P, SARDINIAN WARBLER, BLACK KITE)				'78 RHODESIA	DEFINS: COMPLETE	(15)	U 195P
'67 GRENADA	MONTREAL EXPO:	(4)	M 85P	(ANIMALS, GEMSTONES, WATERFALLS)			
'78 GRENADA	(GREN) CAPT. COOK	(4)	M 195P	'78 RHODESIA	SET AS ABOVE ON 1ST DAY COVER	275P	
'68 HAITI	CHURCHILL SHORT SET	(10)	U 50P	'69 ROMANIA	NUDE PAINTINGS	(6)	U 55P
'55 HUNGARY	WATER SPORTS	(8)	U 145P	'82 RUSSIA	LOCOMOTIVES	(5)	U 58P
'59 HUNGARY	WATER BIRDS	(8)	U 75P	'47 RUSSIA	VOLGA - MOSCOW CANAL	(6)	U 75P
'66 HUNGARY	BUTTERFLIES	(9)	U 65P	'58 RYUKYU	SHURI GATEWAY	(1)	M 48P
'09 ICELAND	BIRDS, GULLS ETC	(2)	M 255P	'56 ST HELENA	STAMP CENT:	(3)	U 45P
'59 IFNI	STAMP DAY	(3)	M 36P	'88 TUVALLU	BIRDS - SHORT SET	(9)	M 135P
'59 JAPAN	PHILATELIC WEEK (CAT £4.75)	(1)	M 95P	'69 UGANDA	FLOWERS TO 5/-	(13)	U 69P
(LADIES READING POETRY)				'68 U.S.A.	HISTORIC FLAGS	(10)	U 65P
'73 KOREA (N)	SONG BIRDS	(3)	U 55P	'83 UPPER VOLTA	WORLD EVENTS	(4)	U 68P
'64 KOREA (N)	TOKYO OLYMPICS	(5)	U 59P	(S.G. 665/8 SPACE SHUTTLE, PRINCESS DIANA ETC.)			
'82 KIRIBATI	AIRLINES	(4)	M 65P	'83 VENDA	MIGRATORY BIRDS	(4)	M 190P
'87 KIRIBATI	SKINKS	(4)	M 88P	'87 VENDA	WATER BIRDS	(4)	M 250P
'09 KIRIBATI	NAVAL AVIATION	(4)	M 275P	'60 VINAM(S)	REFUGEES SG.107/10	(4)	M 145P
'53 LIBERIA	BIRDS	(6)	U 125P	'01 TURKEY	HORSES	(4)	M 165P
'58 LIBERIA	PRESIDENT'S TOUR	(7)	U 72P	'62 YEMEN	SAVE NUBIAN TEMPLES	(2)	M 285P
'65 LUXEMBOURG	FAIRY TALES	(6)	M 145P	(S.G. 159/60, CATALOGUED £15)			
'66 LUXEMBOURG	FAIRY TALES	(6)	M 130P	'65 YEMEN	CATS S.G. R99/104, CAT £11 (6)	U 75P	
'91 LAOS	LOCOMOTIVES	(5)	U 95P				
('MALLARD', CANADIAN PACIFIC ETC.)							
'72 MANAMA	TOUR DE FRANCE	(20)	U 85P				
'70 MANAMA	WORLD CUP	(5)	U 49P				
'68 MALAWI	FLOWERS	(4)	M 88P				
'81 MALAYSIA	SABAH CENT:	(2)	M 85P				
'85 MAURITANIA	AUDUBON BIRDS	(4)	U 135P				
'07 MAURITIUS	DODO - BIRD	(4)	M 225P				

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The fiddle theme

They say that there's only one real difference between a violin and a fiddle: attitude! Paula Hammond takes a musical journey through world stamps to locate a selection of fiddle stamps that hit the right note



F is for Fiddle

The fiddle, in all its many incarnations, is one of the world's oldest stringed instruments. Born amongst the horse tribes of Central Asia, these early instruments had necks carved into the shape of horses' heads and strings made from horse hair. However, from these humble beginnings grew the Chinese erhu, the Middle Eastern rebab, the Kazakh kobyz, and the Byzantine lyra. Eventually, around 1500, the granddaddy of the fiddle emerged in Italy and was quickly adopted by both classically-trained and self-taught musicians. By the 18th century, a party simply wasn't a party without a fiddle player. So much so that in Norway the Hardanger fiddle became associated drunkenness and mischief. Until the early 20th century, the fiddle was considered to be 'the devil's instrument' and they were banned from many Norwegian churches!

Today, fiddles are still the world's second most popular musical instrument, having lost first place only last year to the electric guitar.

With such a rich history, fiddles make a fabulous collecting theme, offering both depth and variety. Designs vary from the uber

modernist 1952 Polish Wieniawski Violin Competition stamp (Wieniawski also featured in 1957 and 1977), to the charming 1969 Netherland Child Welfare series by children's illustrator Dick Bruna. For collectors with a pernickety mindset, Britain's 2006 (Europa) 'Sounds of Britain' 50p stamp very definitely features a fiddle rather than a violin.

Expanding the theme to include the impresarios, musicians, manufacturers and the composers who made this instrument so iconic is equally rewarding. Denmark's 1962 stamp marking the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Georg Carstensen is a lovely example, decorated with a violin scroll, balloons and lights in honour of the Tivoli Gardens, which Carstensen founded. Sweden's five-stamp Folk Music issue from 1983 is equally picturesque. Featuring the 1904 painting *The Fiddler* by Anders Zorn, the engraver received the Robert Stolz-Award from the Philatelic Music Circle for his outstanding work on this stamp. The USA's 1980 'Music of America is Freedom's Symphony' 3.5c stamp is another fine but understated example, this time celebrating the work of violin maker Herman Weaver.

As with all good topics, a fiddle thematic can also be wonderfully offbeat, including issues such as Israel's 50 Years of *Fiddler on the Roof* series from September 2014 or Grenada's six-stamp The Cat and the Fiddle set from 2000. The rhyme is clearly popular with those responsible for Grenada's stamps as the 2013 souvenir sheet celebrating the birth of HRH Prince George also features the cat and fiddle in the margin. Fiddler crabs make another potential, if oblique, addition to the theme and bring the stamps of Australia, Togo, Gambia and Mauritius into the fiddle thematic family.

Why Collect?

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- Fabulously varied.
- Can encompass performers, composers, art, literature, and folklore.
- Includes FDCs, stamp sheets, booklets (GB 1985 £1), and special cancellations.

Notable releases

- 1969 - Netherlands Dick Bruna illustrated stamp
- 1980 - USA Weaver Violin Bureau stamp
- 1983 - Sweden, Folk Music Anders Zorn stamp
- 2000 - Grenada, Cat and the Fiddle set
- 2014 - Israel 50th Anniversary of Fiddler on the Roof set

Expand the theme

Every nation has its own home-grown fiddles and these make a great expansion to the theme. Look out for stamps containing the kobyz (2003 Kazakhstan), the pipa, erhu, gehu, and ruan (Hong Kong 2010) and the Hardanger fiddle (Norway 1978). The Norwegian stamp has proved especially popular with fiddle fans and the image can be found on hats, bags and t-shirts.





Anyone for coffee?

What better way to follow our guide to collecting wine on stamps, in last month's issue, than with an examination of coffee-related issues? Christer Brunstrom wakes up, smells the coffee, and selects a few popular stamps to add to his growing coffee collection

Before joining the ranks of philatelic writers I made a living in teaching. Every working day I noticed how my fellow colleagues hastily left their classrooms after each lesson in a rush to be the very first one to get to the staff room.

Was it lively pedagogical discussions that they were looking forward to? Did they want to share work experiences with other teachers? Or did they need to prepare teaching materials for their next lesson?

The answer to all those questions is 'No!' They were all heading for the coffee machine! In my humble opinion this machine is the backbone of all successful scholastic institutions.

The habit of drinking coffee arrived in Europe in the 16th century. Coffee houses soon became the favoured meeting places for all who could afford the heavenly beverage.

It is believed that coffee was first grown in Yemen (or Ethiopia) and it was first documented in the 15th century. It then spread to Italy, India

Above left: the first coffee plant was introduced to Cuba in 1748, as recalled on this Cuban stamp of 1948; Guatemala used English on one of its stamps to advertise its coffee

Below, from left: Brundi's coffee showcased; a publicity label issued by Colombia to promote the export of coffee

and other countries. Coffee seeds were first taken to Brazil in 1727. African slave labourers were used in the coffee plantations in the Caribbean and Central and South America

Coffee is one of the major agricultural crops in numerous countries in Latin America and in certain parts of Africa and Asia. A suitable climate and a lot of attention are needed to produce high-quality coffee. The world's largest coffee exporter is Brazil and the Dutch occupy the first place when it comes to

Coffee facts

Major producers

1. Brazil 2.6 million tonnes
2. Vietnam 1.2 million tonnes
3. Indonesia 500,000 tonnes

Top coffee consumers

(average number of cups per day)

1. Netherlands 2.4
2. Finland 1.8
3. Sweden 1.4
4. UK 0.4





The Canadian town of Davidson in Saskatchewan has a 24-foot coffee pot and cup on the side of the road, and was featured on a 'Tourist Attractions' stamp from Canada in July 2010

per capita consumption of coffee.

There are really just two kinds of coffee: *Coffea Arabica* and *Coffea Rustica* with the first variety being the more popular. The coffee plants need temperatures ranging from 15 to 25°C, suitable soil and sufficient supply of water. The berries are harvested, sorted, fermented and washed. It is a labour intensive process.

Numerous coffee companies all over the world then roast and grind the coffee beans before marketing their products to the consumers. In recent years coffee shops offering a wide variety of black coffee, caffè latte, cappuccino and numerous other varieties have mushroomed all over the western world. Shops offer coffee to go and it seems all smart city-dwellers are constantly carrying a paper mug of coffee with their name scrawled across it as they make their way to the next important meeting.

In the United States, the Starbucks Company was established in 1971 and now operates thousands of coffee shops all over the country. They have also expanded to many other countries, including the UK, taking

Below: the simple design above and below the value on Brazil's first stamps, known as the 'Bull's Eye', is said to be a branch from a coffee plant

Bottom, from left: a coffee plant featured on a Yemeni definitive stamp of 1976; Sweden's 2006 homage to coffee



Wake up and smell the stamp!

For many the allure of coffee is the smell of a warming cuppa. Brazil's post office captured this aroma in a scented stamp in December 2001, adding a clear varnish to the stamps which contained scented microcapsules. But it wasn't Brazil's first smelly stamp. The whiff of burning wood was included on a Brazilian postage stamp two years earlier on a stamp protesting against deforestation of the country's famous Amazon rainforest.

Portugal also focussed on the smell of coffee as they marked the birth bicentenary of Louis Braille. The five-stamp set covered the five senses, with the 'touch' stamp featuring embossed ink; 'sight' showing holographic images; 'taste' featuring vanilla-flavoured glue; 'sound' showing an image of a file with a rough surface, making a noise when it is rubbed; and the 'smell' stamp, emitting a coffee aroma. See our news story on page 12 for details of Ireland's recently issued 'Five Senses' set.

It will come as no surprise to those collectors familiar with the novel stamps issued on behalf of Bhutan, that the South Asian country was the first to issue scented stamps; their 1973 issues depicted and smelled of roses.

advantage of the constant demand for a cup of coffee.

Many countries have used stamps and cancels to promote the export of coffee beans suggesting that their own varieties are the best in the world. Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala all claim that they produce 'El Mejor Café del Mundo' (the best coffee in the world); Latin American nations are famous for making bombastic claims.

Guatemala even used English on one of its stamps to advertise its coffee.

A key eight-stamp set in a collection of coffee stamps was released by Guatemala back in 1984. Four showed coffee growing in the 19th century and the second part of the set depicted more modern coffee production. This basic set is quite inexpensive, however, there were also two very large stamps which were printed in tiny quantities making them quite valuable. These large stamps are not listed in all catalogues or just mentioned in a footnote and one wonders exactly why the stamps were produced.

The Central African nation of Burundi is also a coffee producer, albeit on a smaller scale. In 2012, Burundi released a set of two souvenir sheets which provide an excellent illustration of coffee production.

Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula is one of the oldest coffee producers. The Yemeni coffee is grown in the Mocha region hence the name of its particular variety. Coffee plants were depicted on Yemeni stamps issued in 1947, 1951 and 1958.

Brazil is by far the world's largest producer of coffee. In 1928, there was a set of three stamps marking the bicentenary of the introduction





The USA's American Design series began in 2002 with a 5c stamp showing a c.1850 toleware coffeepot. A 3c value in the series from 2005 showed a silver coffeepot

of the coffee plant. The triplet came too late as the anniversary took place the previous year as indicated on the stamps. However, it seems coffee was first shown on Brazil's 1843 stamp issue. A branch of a coffee plant is shown both above and below the value. These three stamps are quite rare and certainly belong in a gold medal collection of coffee on stamps. For the collector of more modest means, may we suggest a more economical way of adding these stamps? In 1943 there was an issue marking the centenary of the first Brazilian postage stamps, the stamps have very similar designs to the classic 1843 issue.

Unlike all my colleagues I was always able to walk back to the staff room at a leisurely pace. I am a firm believer in the fact that coffee contains more than 100 toxic substances. What is true is the fact that coffee is highly addictive.

Some people claim that coffee is beneficial for your health. In 1956, Colombia released two postage stamps honouring the 167-year-old Señor Javier Pereira. He was said to have been born in 1789 and passed away in 1958 two years after he had been featured on two stamps. Señor Pereira attributed his apparent longevity to the fact that he had been drinking coffee and smoking cigars every day of his extremely long life.

Collectors often a topic already quite familiar to them, and since so many people enjoy a cup of coffee it is rather surprising that I have never spotted a Coffee on Stamps collection at any of the many stamp exhibitions that I have attended. There is plenty of material available for collectors who would like to specialise in this particular topic.

Ten stamps on... fireworks

It's that time of year when we venture outside and watch with baited breath as a hapless volunteer lights the touch paper on an expensive selection of fireworks. Provided you follow the firework code it's great fun, but a selection of fireworks on stamps can be just as entertaining...

1 Since Guy Fawkes Night is a British occasion, we will start with this 2006 GB stamp showing a firework explosion. The design was part of the Smilers stamps on the theme of 'Holy Days and Celebrations'.

2 Fireworks were invented in China during the 7th century and the country produces most of the fireworks used around the world today. Macau, an administrative region of China, issued this explosive stamp in 2008 to mark the 20th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest.

3 Hong Kong, another Chinese territory, issued this joint stamp with Austria in 2006. The stamp was one in a set of four each showing fireworks above Hong Kong.

4 It seems communism and fireworks go together well, as illustrated on this 1975 Russian stamp marking the thirtieth anniversary of victory in the Second World War. Lenin's portrait takes pride of place but the fireworks at the bottom bring the design to life.

5 While China invented the firework, the USA has become one of the world's biggest users with annual consumption reaching \$1 billion! Most fireworks are lit on 4 July, Independence Day. This 2014 stamp marked the 200th anniversary of The Star-Spangled Banner flag.

6 Many countries have celebrated their independence on stamps and fireworks often appear on the designs. Take this 1960 stamp from Ghana for example, which marked the third anniversary of independence from Britain.

7 This subtle 2008 design from Finland features a more sedate firework display, perhaps reflecting the country's sensible approach to fireworks; safety goggles are required for anyone lighting fireworks and displays are limited to New Year's Eve and the last weekend in August.

8 Lithuania's 2013 stamp is similarly low-key, showing a New Year's Eve firework display being enjoyed by two animal characters who have clearly not read the firework code, which advises us to keep pets indoors.

9 Staying in Europe, France issued their own firework stamp in 2008. Parisians are treated to a spectacular fireworks display on 14 July each year, to mark Bastille Day.

10 Our final stamp shows the fireworks themselves, rather than sparkling skies. The USA stamp was issued in 2013 to mark the Chinese Lunar New Year and depicts firecrackers.



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Society news

The recent **Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society** meeting saw members bring in new acquisitions. Amongst the items shown were Greece's Hermes Heads, Swiss postage due, mint stamps of the Commonwealth, Hong Kong postcards, censored covers from the British Occupation of former Italian colonies, postage due covers from British Africa and a cover flown out of Paris by balloon during the Franco-Prussian war. For Society details contact John Rawlins, tel: 01245 420196; e-mail: john@jr226.plus.com

The **Royal Philatelic Society London** is inviting nominations of books that were published in 2014 or 2015 to be considered for the Crawford Medal. A spokesperson said: 'If you are aware of any major philatelic books which you believe should be candidates, please send brief details by e-mail to secretary@rpsl.org.uk or by letter to The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY no later than 10 February, 2016.' The Society hopes to have nominations

for as wide a selection of books as possible. If a nominated book is not already held in the RPSL Library it may request the nominator to supply a copy for the Committee to consider.

Leeds Philatelic Society will be holding its annual stamp fair on 20 and 21 November at the Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, LS28 5TA. With a range of dealers attending, the event is a must-visit for any collectors in the area.

The recent display by Ken Burr at the **Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain** reflected the political aspects of Czechoslovak life after the take-over of communism. Ken explained and illustrated through many post-war stamp issues and the manner in which the communists used these issues to give Western society the impression of a wonderful way of life in Eastern Europe. The society continues to meet at the Czech and Slovak Club in London, and welcomes new members. For Society details visit: cpsgb.org.uk;



Tony Bosworth giving Ken Burr a certificate of thanks at the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain meeting

or contact membership secretary Mr Hans van Dooremalen on e-mail: cpsgb1@gmail.com

The **Austrian Philatelic Society** recently held a weekend meeting in Peterborough. Amongst the displays was Colin Tobitt's presentation of 1945 Soviet 'eagle arms' stamps; John Bathard discussed the Austrian Railway; and Clive Murray showed Postage Dues of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. An Annual General Meeting took place on the Sunday of the event, and it was agreed to hold a weekend event in the same hotel in September 2016. Find out more about the Society at: www.austrianphilately.com

STAMP FAIRS

1 November 2015

Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Novotel, Saxon Street, Leyburn Court, Heelands 01582 876651

6 November 2015

Stafford

Staffordshire Showground

7 November 2015

Beckenham

Azelia Hall, Croydon Road 0208 395 9285

Billingshurst

Community Centre, Roman Way 01903 244875

Deal

The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, 07702 270948

Exeter

America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, 01749 677669

Leicester

The Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle, 0116 235 0441

Liverpool

St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, 01226 755069

Stourbridge

Platters Cafe, Victoria Street 07813 260752

Upminster

St Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Rd, 01582 876651

Wigginton

Wigginton Recreation Hall, York

8 November 2015

Wokingham

St Crispins Centre, London Road, 01923 674999

14 November 2015

Colwyn Bay

Eirias High School, Eirias Park 01745 826434

Crawley

St Pauls Church Hall, Woodfield Rd, Northgate, 01903 244875

Derby

Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston 01909 563394

Folkestone

Trinity Church Hall, Sandgate Road, 07702 270948

Middlewich

Community Centre, Civic Way, off Leadsmithy St, 01226 755069

Teeside

Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton

15 November 2015

Dronfield

Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, 01909 563394

Knowle

Village Hall, St Johns Close 07765 792998

20 November 2015

Leeds

Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Pudsey, 01943 465236

London

Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square 0208 946 4489

21 November 2015

Basingstoke

The Costello School 01256 415699

Brighton

Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, 01903 244875

Broughty Ferry

St Aidan's Hall, 408 Brook Street, Dundee, 01674 832823

Hull

St Stephen's Church Hall, Freehold Street, 01909 563394

Leeds

Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Pudsey, 01943 465236

Preston

Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road (A6), 07943 174958

Weston Super Mare

Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, 01749 677669

22 November 2015

Ormskirk

The Guide HQ, Moorgate, 01226 755069

25 November 2015

Birmingham

The Irish Centre, 16-20 High Street, Digbeth, 01283 820151

Stockport

Masonic Guildhall, Wellington Road South, 01283 820151

28 November 2015

Bilsborrow

Bilsborrow Village Hall 01226 755069

Leeds

St Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley, 01909 563394

The Maidstone & Mid Kent Philatelic

Society's 93rd season got under way with displays by Dr Garth Taylor on Czech Forces in France and the UK 1939-1945. This was followed by Michael Farrant's display on Zanzibar Postal History covering the period from 1890 to independence at the end of 1963. The first morning meeting of the season covered British Post Offices in Latin America by William Kemm. Meetings are held at St. Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone, ME14 2AH.

Ernie Burkin, the 'Father of the **Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society**' who joined in 1947 and is now aged 93, recently gave a display of Iceland from the first numeral issues in 1873 through to 1984. The early issues were well represented with mint copies in various shades and perforations; similarly the Coat of Arms and Numeral issues, then the 1902 overprints with varieties, and the various Kings issues in sets including Officials. The President expressed the vote of thanks and presented Ernie with a Certificate and the Society Pen and Pencil set. For Society details contact David on tel: 020 8778 7001, website: www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp

SPOTLIGHT ON

Spalding & District Stamp Club

Now in its 51st season, Spalding & District Stamp Club welcomes collectors of all ages and abilities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday (evenings) and fourth Wednesday (afternoons) of the month at the Frasier Room in Surfleet, Spalding.

The group's programme of talks covers a wide range of philatelic topics, with upcoming subjects including stamps of the Dutch East Indies, postcards and flowers on stamps. The group also holds regular philatelic competitions and auctions, as well as occasional visits to local philatelic events. Most recently, members met to display material acquired during the summer months. Among material on display was Papua New Guinea stamps and covers, a certificate and pin from the Austrian Association of Stamp Clubs and material relating to Nelson.

Annual membership is £10 adult/£1 junior (under sixteen). For more information, contact Frank Wilson on tel: 01775 766117; e-mail: f.j.wilson@btinternet.com; website: www.mailbyrail.com/spalding



Members share collection additions at a recent meeting

Newcastle

St Georges UR Church Hall,
Newton Road, Heaton
07948 979544

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Hunsbury, 0115 9614528

Twickenham

Methodist Church Hall, Percy
Road, Whitton, 01903 244875

Wanstead

Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall
Road, 01582 876651

29 November 2015

Doncaster

Park Social Club, Eden Grove Rd,
Edenthorpe, 01909 563394

Harrogate

Masonic Hall, Station Avenue,
01282 866562

Rugby

Benn Hall, Newbold Rd,
CV21 2LN, 01788 630072

Stevenage

Novotel, Knebworth Park,
junction 7 A1M, 01582 876651

Uckfield

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STAMP AUCTIONS

4 November 2015

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www.warwickandwarwick.com

9 November 2015

London

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399 - 401 Strand, WC2R 0LT
020 7379 8789
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21 November 2015

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Auctions, The Maltings, 01353
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Coventry

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Holiday Inn, Coventry South
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www.tonylester.co.uk

25 November 2015

London

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Bloomsbury, WC1B 4ET
www.spink.com

28 November 2015

Portsmouth

Gordano School, St. Mary's
Road 0207 836 2341

29 November 2015

Essex

Essex Stamp Auctions,
Marriott Hotel, Waltham Abbey
01376 585357
www.essexstampauctions.com

COIN FAIRS

7 November 2015

Exeter

America Hall, De La Rue Way,
Pinhoe, 01749 677669

8 November 2015

Birmingham

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Bickenhill, B92 0EJ
(opposite the NEC on the M42/
A45 junction)

21 November 2015

Weston Super Mare

Victoria Methodist Church Hall,
Station Road, 01749 677669

COIN AUCTIONS

7 November 2015

London

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399 Strand, WC2R 0LX
020 7930 9808
www.baldwin.co.uk

12 November 2015

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www.dnw.co.uk

18 November 2015

Glasgow

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31 Meiklewood Road
G51 4EU
0141 810 2880
www.mctears.co.uk

POSTCARD AUCTIONS

1 November 2015

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Street, Leyburn Court, Heelands
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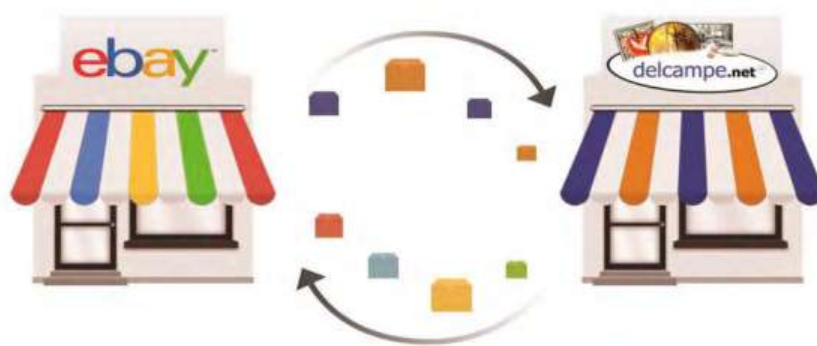
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WEST END STAMP & POSTCARD FAIRS

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The Irish Centre, 16-20 High Street, Deritend, Digbeth, B12 0LN
October 28th; November 25th

STOCKPORT (MIDWEEK FAIR)

Masonic Guild Hall, Wellington Road South SK1 3XE
October 27th; November 24th; December 22nd

TETTENHALL

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In-depth listings

Your comprehensive guide to the
latest new stamps from around the world

GREAT BRITAIN

(listed in every issue)

001 Bees, five values

Issue date: August 18, 2015; Design: Anne Ekelund, after illustrations by Richard Lewington (sheet stamps) or afterwood engraving prints by Andy English (miniature sheet stamps); Printer: International Security Printers, offset; Perforations 14¼ x 14¼.

1st (63p) – Scabious Bee, *Andrena hattorfiana*, on scabious flowerhead

1st (63p) – Great Yellow Bumblebee, *Bombus distinguendus*, on flower

1st (63p) – Northern Colletes Bee, *Colletes floralist*, on flower head

1st (63p) – Bilberry Bumblebee, *Bombus monticola*, on bilberry

1st (63p) – Large Mason Bee, *Osmia xanthomelana*, on flower

£2.25 - Potter Flower Bee, *Anthophora retusa*

Miniature sheet (4 x 1): contains, se-tenant

1st (63p) – Diagram of honey bees doing 'waggle dance' to convey direction and distance to flowers yielding nectar and pollen

1st (63p) – Pollination: bees on and around flower head of sunflower

1st (63p) – Making honey: honey bees flying around beehive (next to hollyhocks)

1st (63p) – Honeybees tending young (on honeycomb, feeding larvae with royal jelly)

Border: bees and flowers

002 Bees. Self-adhesive booklet,

Issue date: August 18, 2015; Design: Anne Ekelund from illustrations by Richard Lewington (bee stamp), or Jeffery Matthews (Machins); Printer: International Security Printers, gravure; Perforations: die-cut 14 x 14¼, or 14.6 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs (Machins).

1st (63p) x two copies - Great Yellow Bumblebee, *Bombus distinguendus*, on yellow vetchling flower

1st (63p) x four copies - Machin head of Queen Elizabeth II, in red. Security overlay has coding M15L / MCIL

AITUTAKI

(previously listed in August 2014 issue)

003 Easter 2014. Paintings, four values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: April 9, 2014; Design: Alison Dittko; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13.

Sheetlet: five stamps and a label, containing

50c – *The Ascension of Christ* by Garofalo (Benvenuto Tisi)

\$1.00 – *The Resurrection of Christ* by Titian (Tiziano Vecelli)

\$1.30 – *The Resurrection* by Piero della Francesca

\$1.50 – *The Resurrection* by Peter Paul Rubens

\$1.70 – *Christ Risen* by Ambrogio Borgognone

The label depicts a work by Grünewald

004 Marine Life. The Spotted Reef Crab, *Carpilus maculata*. WWF issue, four values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: November 28, 2014; Design: Alison Dittko, from photographs; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14.

\$1.00 – Spotted Reef Crab

\$1.40 – Spotted Reef Crab, from front and left

\$1.70 – Spotted Reef Crab, from front and above

\$2.10 – Spotted Reef Crab, amid coral

The above four values were each printed in sheetlets of four stamps

Miniature sheet – contains \$1.00; \$1.40; \$1.70; \$2.10 as sheetlet stamps, but se-tenant

005 Christmas 2014. Paintings, three values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: December 12, 2014; Design: Melissa Cato and Alison Dittko; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14½

Miniature sheet: contains

\$1.50 – *Nativity* by Fra Angelico

\$1.50 – *Nativity* by Pieter Breughel The Elder

\$1.50 – *Nativity* by Paolo Schiavo

006 Chinese Lunar New Year. Year of the Sheep, two diamond format stamps in a miniature sheet

Issue date: January 5, 2014; Design: Sophie Zhang; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

Miniature sheet: contains

\$3.80 – Sheep (decorative) made from red and white flowers, on yellow-green background

\$4.10 – Sheep (decorative) made from ultramarine flowers, on red background

Notes: the miniature sheet border is cut around in the shape of a sheep

BAHAMAS

(previously listed in August 2015 issue)

007 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, four values

Issue date: June 15, 2015; Design: Derek Miller. Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations 13.3 x 13.5

15c – Archbishop shows the Magna Carta document to King John of England, by River Thames at Runnymede

50c – Supreme Court (building), Nassau

65c – Bahamas House of Assembly

70c – Medal depicting King John and Knight / Baron on horse

CROATIA

(previously listed in July 2015 issue)

008 50th anniversary of the Croatian Union for Diabetic Research and Care, one value (tax stamp)

Issue date: March 1, 2014; Printing: offset; Perforations 14 x 14

1.55K – Emblem of the union (HSDU), gingerbread man

Notes: a tax stamp, for use during March 2014. This stamp is an addition to previous listings of Croatia in Stamp & Coin Mart

009 Valentines Greetings, one value

Issue date: February 4, 2015; Design: Ivona Đogic Đuric; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset and embossed; Perforations: 14 (in heart shape)

6.50K – Valentine messages in many languages and scripts (including braille), and pink hearts

Notes: printed in a sheetlet of six stamps, with every stamp contained within a label

010 Number 112 Day, one value to publicise the national emergency call number

Issue date: February 11, 2015; Design: Ivona Đogic Đuric. Printer: AKD, Zagreb (using special coloured dye); Perforations: 14 x 14

6.50K – '112' (European emergency service number) superimposed on letters 'S-O-S', and symbols of emergency response services and their tools (eg lifebelt, power drill, stretcher, helicopter, ambulance) and symbols (eg 'storm' meteorological sign)

Notes: stamp background is printed in fluorescent orange



007



026



027



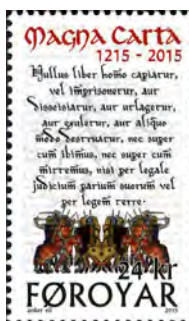
028



030



031



033



035

011 Children's World. House Pets (Birds), four values

Issue date: February 19, 2015; Design: Lidija Novosel and Adam Petar Maguine (cartoon illustrations); Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations: 14 x 14

- 3.10K — Sulphur-crested cockatoo, *Cacatua galerita*, wearing a jacket, with safety pin
- 3.10K — Zebra finch, *Poephila guttata*, with pipe
- 3.10K — Budgerigar, *Melopsittacus undulatus*, wearing ship's captain's cap, and cargo ship
- 3.10K — Canary, *Serinus canaria (domestica)*, wearing Spanish bull-horn hat

Notes: the four designs were issued se-tenant in a sheetlet of eight (2 x 4)

012 Croatian Fauna, three values

Issue date: April 15, 2015; Design: Dean Roksandic, after photographs by Marc Romulic; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations 14 x 14

(A) stamps from sheets of ten

- 2.80K — Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*
- 4.60K — Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*
- 6.50K — Boar, *Sus scrofa*

(B) stamp booklets

Booklet (28.00K), contains pane of 2.80K roe deer x ten copies

Booklet (46.00K), contains pane of 4.60K fox x ten copies

Booklet (65.00K), contains pane of 6.50K boar x ten copies

Notes: a set of three maximum cards was also released

013 Croat Personalities, three values

Issue date: April 21, 2015; Design: Dubravka Zglavnik-Horvat; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations: 14 x 14

- 3.10K — Luka Sokočević (Luka Sörgo), 1734-1789, composer and statesman. Inscription and musical notation
- 3.10K — Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer, 1815-1905, Catholic churchman, administrator, founder of the Croatian Academy of Arts. Portrait and cathedral
- 3.10K — Ivan Supek, 1915-2007, natural scientist, university professor and administrator, nuclear disarmament campaigner, playwright and novelist. Portrait and molecular structure

014 Rotary Clubs in Croatia, 1926-2015, one value

Issue date: February 25, 2015; Design: Draga Komparak; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations: 14 x 14

- 3.10K — Rotary International emblem, yellow cogwheels

Notes: Rotary Club Zagreb (Rotary District 1913) was formed in 1926, and abolished in 1941; it was refounded on April 29, 1990 (this stamp notes the 25th anniversary of refoundation). Stamp was printed in a sheetlet of nine

015 Easter 2015, one value

Issue date: March 16, 2015; Design: Ariana Noršić; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset and gold foil stamped; Perforations: 14 x 14

- 3.10K — Sculpture of a chalice containing the Body of Christ, from Church of St Euphemia, Rovinj, and church vaulting

016 50th anniversary of the Croatian Sport and Regreation League of Disabled (Croatian Paralympic Committee), one value

Issue date: March 23, 2015; Design: Borut Bencina; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations: 14 x 14

- 5.00K — Emblem, disabled athletes, one wearing a heart badge

Notes: printed in sheetlets of nine stamps and a label

017 Bobbin Lace. Joint issue with Spain, two values in a sheetlet of eight stamps

Issue date: March 31, 2015; Design: Ivana Vučić and Tomislav-Jurica Kačunić; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset

Sheetlet — contains

- 7.60K x four copies — Seville lace, and lace bobbin pins

- 7.60K x four copies — Lepoglava (Croat) lace, and Croatian woman lace-maker

The stamps are arranged se-tenant in chequer format; the Lepoglava lace was made by Danica Brösles; the Seville lace by Cándida García using an old Andalusian methodology. Both lace-making cities are on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage register

018 'The 1000th Croatian Stamp', one value

Issue date: April 27, 2015; Design: Jana Žiljak Vujic; Printer: AKD, offset using special inks; Perforations: 14 x 15

Notes: printed in sheets of nine stamps; the text '1000 marka Hrvatska pošte' is revealed when the stamp is bathed in infra-red light

019 Bridges of Croatia. Crossings of Highway A1 (Zagreb to Split), two values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: April 28, 2015; Design: Dean Roksandic, from photographs by Mario Romulic; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations 13.9 x 14.1

Miniature sheet: contains

- 7.60K — Modruš 1 bridge at Mala Kapela, near Modrus, opened 2005
- 7.60K — Bridge spanning River Krka near Skradin, constructed 2002-05

020 Europa 2015. Old Toys, two values

Issue date: May 7, 2015; Design: Tomislav Vlainić; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations 14 x 14.

- 4.60K — To-Tak, a fourteen-element turned wood toy (composed of spheres, rods, blocks and cones) from which various animal shapes can be assembled and re-assembled, created by Anté Jakia of Ston (1965)
- 7.60K — Porcelain doll of early twentieth century, dressed in hand-sewn embroidered folk costume of the Posavina region, by Armand Marseille, 1856-1925

021 150th anniversary of the ITU (International Telecommunications Union), one value

Issue date: May 15, 2015; Design: Dubravka Zglavnik-Horvat; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset;

Perforations: 14 x 14.

- 10.00K — Telephone handset (early twentieth century) and modern digital data transmission equipment

Notes: printed in sheetlets of ten with illustrated borders

022 Croatian Palaces and Manors, four values

Issue date: May 20, 2015; Design: Tomislav Vlainić, adapted from photographs; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14.

(A) sheets of nine stamps of a single design

- 4.60K — Castle Markovica/Kulmer at Cernik (fourteenth to fifteenth centuries, reconstructed mid eighteenth century)
- 4.60K — Castle Jankovica, Daruvar (baroque manor built 1771-1777)
- 4.60K — Stari Grad (Old Town) at Đurđevac, lowland tower-castle (fourteenth to sixteenth centuries) surrounded by floodable water meadows
- 4.60K — Erdödi-Rubido at Gornji Rijeka (stately home built 1650-63)

(B) sheetlet of eight stamps and eight labels (stamps and labels alternating), with decorated border. Contains two of each 4.60K design, as (A); labels display coats of arms

023 Croatian Lighthouses, four values

Issue date: June 10, 2015; Design: Orsat Frankovič, from photographs; Printer: AKD, Zagreb, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14

- 2.80K — Lighthouse of Daksa (built 1872, now in ruins), on islet just off Dubrovnik
- 3.10K — Lighthouse of Glavat (1884), in the archipelago of Vrhovnjaci
- 4.60K — Lighthouse on the Rocks of Grebeni (now retired, used solely for tourist purposes)
- 6.50K — Lighthouse on Sveti Andrija, in Elaphiti islands, near Dubrovnik

Notes: in the background of the 4.60K appears the coastal light on the promontory Bezdanj, island of Koloeep

024 The Croatian Undersea World, second issue, four self-adhesive values

Issue date: June 15, 2015; Design: Alenka Lalic, from photographs by Dalibor Andres; Printer: AKD, Zagreb; Die-cut perf 5.75 x 5

Self-adhesive sheetlet (four separately spaced stamps), contains

- 5.80K — Long-snouted seahorse, *Hippocampus guttulatus*
- 5.80K — Violescent sea-whip, *Paramuricia clavata* (grows at depths of up to 20m to 140m, where almost no infra-red sunlight penetrates).
- 5.80K — Cylinder anemone (*Actinaria sp.*), *Cerianthus membranaceus*
- 5.80K — Neptune's lace (Bryozoan colony), *Reteporella beaniana*

Designs incorporate a blue Air Mail flash (within the perforations)

025 EUROMED Postal Cooperation, one value

Issue date: July 9, 2015; Design: Dean Roksandic; Printer: AKD, Zagreb; Perforations: 14 x 14.

- 5.80K — One-masted bracera (typical sailing vessel of the Croat coast)

FALKLAND ISLANDS

(previously listed in March 2015 issue)

026 Colour in Nature, fourth issue,

four values

Issue date: May 12, 2015; Design: Ian J Strange and Georgina Strange, from their own photographs; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13.1 x 13.2

- 30p — Black-throated Finch, *Melanodera m. melanodera*. Blue-grey and yellow-green plumage (the colour intensity is dependant on the bird's sex)
- 30p — Fuegian Fern, *Blechnum*

magellanicus. New fronds form in early summer, in bright orange and red shades

- 75p — Dolphin Gulls, *Larus scoresbii*, blue-grey plumage contrasts with their red bills and legs

- 75p — Yellow Daisies, *Senecia littoralis*. Bright yellow flowers, appearing in early summer months of November and December

027 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, four values

Issue date: June 15, 2015; Design: Derek Miller. Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations 13.3 x 13.5

- 30p — King John and Archbishop meeting with Barons of England at Runnymede
- 75p — Courtroom in Stanley, Falkland Islands, and extract ...to no one will be denied or delayed right or justice
- £1 — Gilbert House, home of the Falkland Islands Assembly, and extract ...except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land
- £1.20 — Medal depicting King John and Knight / Baron on horse

028 Predators and Prey,

fourth issue, four values

Issue date: August 21, 2015;

Design: Tony Chater; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13.6 x 13.6

- 30p — Magellanic penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus* at entrance to breeding burrow
- 75p — Falkland Sprats (or Fuegian sardine), *Sprattus fuegensis*, important food prey of Magellanic penguin
- £1 — Falkland Skua, *Catharacta antarctica*, preys upon Magellanic penguins
- £1.20 — Pair of Magellanic penguins performing 'ecstatic' display (bonding ritual)

FAROES

(previously listed in September 2014 issue)

029 The Casement Report, on Atrocities in the Congo Free State, 1904, one value

Issue date: September 24, 2014; Design: Anker Eli Petersen; Printer: Cartor, France, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5

- 25kr — Portrait of Roger Casement, commissioned by the British Parliament to prepare a report on the treatment of native peoples in the Congo; paddlesteamer Pioneer and Henry Reed, used in

investigations; map of Africa; portrait of Dollin (Daniel J Danielsen), a missionary and seaman from the Faroes, who took photographs

Notes: in 1904 the Congo Free State was a personal fief of the Belgian monarch Leopold II

030 Centenary of the Great War, 1914-1918,

four values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: September 24, 2014; Design: Anker Eli Petersen, from historic documents;

Printer: Cartor, France, offset;

Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5

- 8kr — Headlines from newspapers of 1914 in Danish, English, French and German, map of Europe, rower in boat and birds
- 8kr — Faroese rye bread, ration coupons, two children (in silhouette), Great War monarchs and political leaders (portraits)
- 8kr — German submarine UC-33 and burning Faroese fishing boat (although the Faroes were neutral, Germans captured their fishing boats and destroyed them), map
- 8kr — Soldiers on western front (silhouette), map of Vimy Ridge, Canadian Expeditionary Force member Christian Pjeturson (Faroese-born)

Notes: the second stamp portrays Georges Clemenceau, Kaiser Wilhelm I, Emperor Franz Josef I, Herbert Asquith, Enver Pasha, and Tsar Nicholas I

031 70th anniversary of the Normandy Landings, June 1944 ('D-Day'), one value

Issue date: September 24, 2014;

Design: Anker Eli Petersen, from historic documents; Printer: Cartor, France, offset;

Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5

- 25kr — Troop transport ships *George Washington*, *Greenville Victory* and *Edmund B Alexander*, which were captained at different times by Greenland-born Faroese marine engineer Vilhelm Reinert-Joensen (portrait)

Notes: Reinert-Joensen, 1891-1949, was also involved in operational planning, and was present on Omaha beach organising tug transport of military equipment

032 Faroes stamps over Forty Years. Self-adhesive franking machine labels,

four values

Issue date: October 1, 2014; Designs: reproductions of past Faroese stamps which were engraved by Czeslaw Slania;



038



040



043



041



047



048

Printer: Ganket, flexography; die-cut (partial 'perforated', partial imperforate)

8.00kr – Fishing smack TN 54 *Westward Ho* (built Grimsby 1884), a 2.80kr design from 1984

8.00kr – Cathedral in Kirkjubøur (ruins), a stamp design from 1988

8.00kr – Tórshavn Church (1779-1989), a 3.50kr design from 1989

8.00kr – Five dairymaids (c1900), a 4.00kr stamp design from 1995

Notes: the four 8.00kr values listed are as distributed philatelically, in a strip of four separately affixed to translucent backing

033 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, one value

Issue date: February 23, 2015; Design: Anker Eli Petersen; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5

24kr – 30th article of the Magna Carta (first version) transcribed, Great Seal of King John of England, transcription of 61st clause

‡ no free man should be stripped of his rights or possessions

034 Scenes from the Published Report of the George Clayton Atkinson Expedition to the Faroe Islands, 1833, four values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: February 23, 2015; Designed by Kim Simonsen and Anker Eli Petersen after paintings by Thomas Miles Richardson, 1784-1848; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2

Miniature sheet, contains

8.50kr – Faroese water mill

8.50kr – Tórshavn (town view)

8.50kr – Coastal inlet on the island of Vágar, with seabird colony, the islands of Koltur and Hestur in distance

8.50kr – Rock formation Trøllkonufingur (The Witch's Finger) on Vágar

Notes: Richardson based his watercolours on Atkinson's original sketches; they were published in 'Journal of an Expedition to the Ferroe and Westman Islands and Iceland', 1833

035 100 Years of Female Suffrage in the Faroe Islands, one value

Issue date: February 23, 2015; Design: Edward Edward Fuglø; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2

36kr – Two women on a 'weathervane' (artwork)

Notes: women were granted the vote in 1915; the first Parliamentary election (to the Lagting, the Faroese Parliament) in which they voted was 1918

036 Opening of the New Terminal Building at Vágar Airport, Faroe Islands, two values in sheets and a stamp booklet

Issue date: February 23, 2015; Design: Anker Eli Petersen from photographs by Jógvan Helgi Hansen; Printing: litho, Cartor; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2. All stamps are gummed

(A) stamps in sheets of twenty

8.50kr – Airbus 319 of

Atlantic Airways at Vágar Airport

15.00kr – New Terminal building, opened June 18, 2014

(B) Stamp booklet (94.00kr), contains one pane of eight (stamps se-tenant in chequer formation)

8.50kr x 4 – Airbus 319 of Atlantic Airways at Vágar Airport

15.00kr x 4 – New Terminal building, opened June 18, 2014

Cover depicts aircraft beside Terminal Building

037 Total Eclipse of the Sun, experienced in the Faroe Islands March 20, 2015, two values and a miniature sheet, plus two self-adhesive stamp booklets

Issue date: March 11, 2015; Design: Martin Mörrck; Printer: bPost Stamp Production Works, Belgium; Perforations: 12 x 12

(A) gummed sheet stamps (separate sheets of ten)

17kr – Moon eclipsing the sun over sound, with darkened skies (left view)

19kr – Moon eclipsing the sun over island (right view)

(B) gummed miniature sheet – contains 17kr and 19kr, as sheet stamps, but se-tenant, forming a composite design with the border

(C) self-adhesive booklets

Booklet (68.00kr): pane of 17kr x four copies, moon eclipsing the sun over sound

Booklet (76.00kr): pane of 19kr x four copies, moon eclipsing the sun over island

GIBRALTAR

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

038 350th anniversary of the Royal Marines, one value

Issue date: October 25, 2014; Design: Stephen Perera, from photograph; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13
£2 – Royal Marines badge (world map) set against camouflage uniform material

039 Christmas 2014,

four values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: November 3, 2014; Design: details of collage made by 33 users of St Bernadette's Resource Centre, Gibraltar, photographed by Stephen Perera;

Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 12.6 x 12.6

One value non-denominated

G (22p) – Santa Claus

40p – Star decorations

64p – Presents with toys

70p – Hanging tree decorations (nativity figures)

80p – Christmas tree decorated with cards, hangings and socks

Miniature sheet £3 – the complete collage depicting Christmas decorations (image includes with sheet border)

Notes: Gibraltar Post links this issue with United Nations International Day of People with Disability, 3 December. The collage was entirely produced by adults with learning disabilities

040 Chinese Lunar New Year.

Year of the Goat, two values

Issue date: January 30, 2015; Design: Stephen Perera from illustrations by 'bajena and siewhoong' showing Asian-style goat paintings; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 12.5 x 12.5
Sheetlet: ten stamps

50p x five copies – Goat (head)

£1 x five copies – Goat

Notes: sheetlet has illustrated border (firework drawings, in yellow on scarlet). Stamps are in block of ten (2 x 5) in five se-tenant pairs. The name GIBALTAR is set sideways at left

041 150th anniversary of the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service, eight values

Issue date: February 11, 2015; Design: Stephen Perera from illustrations by Nicholad Ferrary; Printer: Lowe-Martin, Canada, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13.5

10p – Firefighters using hoses

12p – Firefighters with foam-making equipment (foam extinguisher)

40p – Rescue of victims of fire from high building using a tower crane

50p – Fire-fighter's protective helmet

54p – Sub-aqua rescue training: men in dinghy accompanying diver

64p – Rescue of person trapped in vehicle

70p – Firefighters in gas-tight suits dealing with chemical or biological hazard

£2 – Firefighters attending a vehicle fire
Notes: the anniversary relates to an Order in Council of 1865 requiring the Sanitary Commissioners to resource fire prevention and control. The City Fire Brigade became the Fire and Rescue Service in November 2014

042 Centenary of the Great War, six values

Issue date: February 18, 2015; Designs: archive photographs; Printer: Lowe-Martin, Canada, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13

22p – Soldiers with machine guns

40p – Warships

64p – Soliders in trench, wearing gas masks
70p – Bi-planes at a military camp
80p – Infantry lying prone
£1.20 – Tank
Notes: each stamp carries a red poppy emblem. Issued in sheets containing labels which bear quotation from poem by Wilfred Owen Blue

043 50th anniversary of the Death of Winston Churchill, 1874-1965, four values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: March 20, 2015;
Design: Stephen Perera, from archive photographs; Printer: bPost, Mechelen, Belgium, offset; Perforations 12 x 12
22p – Churchill on deck of HMS *Prince of Wales*, off Newfoundland, 1941
64p – Churchill next to row of Jeeps, after Normandy landings, June 12, 1944
70p – Churchill wearing helmet during an air raid alert, 1940
80p – Inspecting bomb damage to the Palace of Westminster (House of Commons), 1941
Miniature sheet:
£3 – Churchill making his trademark Victory sign
Border depicts statue of Churchill by Ivor Roberts-Jones in Parliament Square, Westminster

044 Definitives, Queen Elizabeth II, five self-adhesive values
Issue date: April 24, 2015; Design: Stephen Perera; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: die cut 13 x 13.5, or die-cut straight edged (£1)
12p – Queen Elizabeth II (after Dorothy Wilding)
18p – Queen Elizabeth II (after Dorothy Wilding)
80p – Queen Elizabeth II (after Dorothy Wilding)
£1 – Wilding portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in layout as Penny Black (but no corner letters). Stamp inscribed ONE POUND
£3 – Queen Elizabeth II (after Dorothy Wilding)

045 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, one value in a miniature sheet
Issue date: April 24, 2015;
Design: Stephen Perera; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13.15 x 13.5
Miniature sheet £3 (composite design with border) collection of used Penny Blacks (twelve rows of twelve stamps arranged by their initial corner letter)

046 Europa 2015. Old Toys, six values
Issue date: April 24, 2015;
Design: Stephen Perera; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13.15 x 13.35
14p – Toy bandsman soldier
22p – Toy carousel (roundabout)
64p – Spinning top
70p – Teddy Bear
80p – Red yo-yo
£1.20 – Wooden toy road train
Notes: printed in sheetlets with enlarged left border depicting the toy shown on the stamp

IRELAND

(previously listed in July 2015 issue)

047 Centenary of the loss of the RMS Lusitania (liner), May 7, 1915
Issue date: May 7, 2015; Design: Vincent Killowry (paintings); Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 14.25 x 14.
68c – RMS *Lusitania* steaming in calm water on Irish approaches (off Kinsale Head)
£1 – RMS *Lusitania* sinking after being struck at starboard by torpedo from German U-boat (and experiencing a major secondary explosion)

048 50th anniversary of Mountain Rescue Ireland, two values
Issue date: June 4, 2015;
Design: Conor & David, after photographs; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14.3
68c – Mountain Rescue Ireland volunteers retrieving an accident victim (descending a rock face with stretcher)
68c – MRI volunteers completing a rescue
Notes: printed in sheets of sixteen stamps

049 150th anniversary of the birth of William Butler Yeats, one value
Issue date: June 11, 2015; Design: Detail, after photograph; Perforations: 14 x 14.3
68c – Yeats photographed by George C Beresford (from National Portrait Gallery, London)
Notes: the poet, playwright, folklorist and broadcaster also served as a Senator in the Irish Parliament from 1922

050 Ireland, 'The Food Island', four values in two se-tenant pairs, and a miniature sheet
Issue date: July 16, 2015; Design: Zinc Design Consultants; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.4 x 13.4
70c – Cattle with farmer in field; joints of beef
70c – Cheese-maker, and Irish soft cheese

€1.05 – Fisherman by fishing boat; fish on slab
€1.05 – Woman farmer in cereal field; bowl of cereal with fruit topping
Miniature sheet – contains 70c; 70c; €1.05;
€1.05 as sheet stamps. Border depicts wheatfield

051 Centenary of Pádraig Pearse's funeral oration beside the grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, August 1, 1915, one value
Issue date: July 30, 2015; Design: Red&Grey; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.3 x 13.3
70c – Pearse making speech at graveside in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin
Notes: Rossa was an Irish nationalist, member of the Fenians, who died in the USA aged 83; Pearse's speech 'is considered one of the most important speeches in 20th century Irish history' (quote from An Post bulletin)

LITHUANIA

(previously listed in October 2015 issue)

052 Jonas Juška, 1815-1886, Linguist, Lexicographer, one value
Issue date: June 6, 2015;
Design: V Butrimas; Printer: Garsu pasaulis, Vilnius; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2
€0.58 – Portrait of the linguist, dictionary compiler, educator and folklorist, and illustration of the hybrid latin / cyrillic (Lithuanian-Russian) script he created

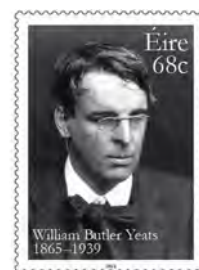
053 Tourism in Lithuania. Kuršiu Nerija National Park, one value
Issue date: June 20, 2015; Design: Tomas Dragunas; Printer: Garsu pasaulis, Vilnius, offset; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2
€0.97 – Coastal scene (dunes), and map of the Park on encompassing the Curonian spit and lagoon

054 Bridges of Lithuania. Kulupenu Railway Bridge, Kretinga, one value
Issue date: July 4, 2015; Design: Tomas Dragunas; Printer: Garsu pasaulis, Vilnius, offset; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.2
€0.87 – Train on the Klaipėda-Kaunas railway line crossing the bridge / viaduct built 1932

RUSSIA

(previously listed in Oct 2014 issue)

055 Modern Russian Art, three values
Issue date: June 17, 2013; Design: O. Ivanova; Printer: Goznak, offset, with varnish coating; Perforations: 11.25 x 11.25, or 11.25 x 12



049



050



051



055



056



058



060



061



063



064



065

(river). Printed in sheetlets of six (3 x 2)

15r – *Early Summer. Morning* by D.A. Belyukin (2003): tree on hillside, valley filled with fog

15r – *Girl and City* by A.A. Lyubavin (2005): girl in green dress with coffee jugs, city scene

15r – *On the River Trubezh* by V.N. Polotnov (2003): house beside river, with boat

056 Definitives. City Coats of Arms series, two values

Issue date: June 18, 2013; Design:

A Povarikhin; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations 11.9 x 12.3

10r – Coat of arms of Aleksandrov: crowned golden lion of Vladimir, anvils and bench screw

14.25r – Coat of arms of Kazan: crowned black dragon with red wings

057 XXVII Universiade Games, Kazan,

one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: June 25, 2013; Design: Kh

Bedretinova; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.9 x 12.3

Miniature sheet 25r – Games emblem (text and five coloured stars)

Border of sheet depicts mascot holding a torch, and panorama of Kazan (with mosque and churches), QR code

Notes: see also issue of October 18, 2013

058 Cavaliers of the Order of St Andrew.

Razul Gamzatov, 1923-2003, one value

Issue date: June 28, 2013; Design:

A Drobyshev; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 12.3 x 11.9

15r – Razul Gamzatov, Dagestani poet, politician, badge of Order

Notes: printed in sheets of eleven stamps and a label (3 x 4)

059 XXII Winter Olympic Games, Sochi,

three values

Issue date: June 29, 2013; Design:

A Drobyshev; Printer: Goznak, offset and embossed, in black and silver. Perforations: 11.25 x 11.25

Sheetlet 25r x eight copies –

Two-person bobsled

Sheetlet 25r x eight copies –

Ski jump and cross country skiing (the Nordic Combined event)

Sheetlet 25r x eight copies –

Pairs figure skating

Notes: the sheetlets have the eight stamps surrounding a central label.

The embossing is upon the sporting figures

The stamps have imprint date '2013'; they were re-released in 2014 with revised date, in a sheetlet

060 Arts and Crafts of Russia. Traditional Shawls, three triangular values

Issue date: July 5, 2013;

Design: K Bedretinova; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.25 x 11.25

Sheetlet: 15r x four copies, Shawl by Troitsko-Alexandrov Factory, Baranov (red, with small blue flowers)

Sheetlet: 15r x four copies, Shawl from Trekhgorniy Factory in Moscow (red, white and blue with roundel patterning)

Sheetlet: 15r x four copies, Shawl from Orenburg (silvery-grey patterning), made from goat's wool

Sheetlet: 15r x four copies, Shawl made by Pavlovo Posad, Moscow Region (Indian-influenced bright scarlet flower pattern)

Notes: each sheetlet of four has the four stamps set at different 90-degree angles, points in the centre, forming a composite design

061 50th anniversary of Valentina

Tereshkova's Space Flight, one value

Issue date: July 5, 2013;

Design: S Ulyanovsky; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.6 x 11.6

14.25r – Seagull, and USSR stamp issued on July 19, 1963, depicting Tereshkova

Notes: printed in sheetlets of eight stamps with illustrated border. Tereshkova was the first woman in space, in Vostok-6, June 16, 1963

062 150th anniversary of the Obhukov

State Military Machine Plant, St

Petersburg, Premium Booklet

Issue date: July 23, 2013

Booklet contains single minisheet pane with the 15r design of C400 Triumph rocket launcher.

Cover depicts the factory

Notes: pane contains a stamp initially released February 14, 2013 (listed Feb 2014 issue; this listing corrects the release date given there)

063 1025th anniversary of the 'Christening of Russia' (Conversion to Christianity), one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: July 28, 2013;

Design: A Moscovets; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.8 x 11.9

25r – Vladimir the Great, ruler of the Kiev Rus, is baptised and conducts mass baptism of his people, from painting by V M Vasnetsov (1885-1886)

064 Coat of Arms of Penza, one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: August 2, 2013; Design: A Moskovets;

Printer: Goznak; Perforations: 11.9 x 12.2

Miniature sheet 50r – Coat of Arms of Penza from 1781 (sheaves of wheat, barley and millet, tied by string)

Border: coat of arms of Penza in the Soviet period (stylised sheaves tied by red ribbons), map of Russian Federation

Notes: the original Arms, approved by Catherine II on May 28 (8 June) 1781, were recently brought back into use

065 Passenger Ferry M/S Princess

Anastasia, one value

Issue date: August 5, 2013;

Design: S Ulyanovsky after Håkan Sjöström

(photograph); Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.9 x 11.9

14.25r – The former Åland islands-Helsinki-St Petersburg passenger ferry at sea

Notes: joint issue with Åland

066 XIV IAAF World Athletics

Championships, Moscow, August 10 to 18, 2013, one value

Issue date: August 8, 2013; Design:

S Ulyanovsky; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations 12.3 x 11.9.

14.25r – Runners (stylised), and Games emblem

067 125th anniversary of the Birth of Andrei Nikolayevich Tupolev, Aircraft designer and constructor,

five values in a sheetlet

Issue date: August 13, 2013;

Design: V Beltjukov; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 12.3 x 12.9

Sheetlet (five stamps and a label) – contains

10r – Tu-2 (1941)

13r – TB-7 (1938)

15r – Tu-16 (1952)

17r – Tu-22M3 (1976)

20r – TU-95 (1952)

Label: portrait of A N Tupolev, 1888-1972, and engineering drawing of Tu-2

068 150th anniversary of the Kolomna

Locomotive Works, one value

Issue date: August 15, 2013; Design:

A Povarikhin; Printer: Goznak, offset;

Perforations: 11.25 x 11.25

15r – Diesel locomotive TEP70BS (contemporary) and steam locomotive No.5000 (historic)

Notes: printed in a sheetlet of nine with decorated borders

069 RSS (PCC), the Regional Satellite and Telecommunications authority, one value

Issue date: August 21, 2013;
Design: S Kapranov; Printer: Goznak, offset;
Perforations: 12.3 x 11.9
14.25r — RSS (PCC) emblem,
and satellite over a map of the
Russian Federation

070 Paintings by Eugene Zotov (Ivan G Myasoedova), 1891-1953

two values se-tenant
Issue date: September 2, 2014;
Design: A Povarikhin; Printe: Goznak, offset with
varnish layer; Perforations: 12 x 11.25
15r — The Minitsky Campaign,
painted in Russia in 1909
15r — Zilum (Alpine view seen through
chalet window), painted in
Liechtenstein, 1945
*Notes: the Russian artist who emigrated to
Liechtenstein in the 1930s (changing his name
to Eugene Zotov) where he served as
court painter*

071 Centenary of the Discovery of the Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago

three values in a miniature sheet
Issue date: September 4, 2013; Design:
A Drobyshev; Printer: Goznak, offset;
Perforations: 11.75 x 12.25, or
12.25 x 11.75 (Vikitski)
Miniature sheet — contains
15r — Expedition ship *Vaygach* 15r - B A
Vikitski, 1885-1951, leader of the
Hydrographic Expedition to the Arctic
Ocean, 1910-1915
15r — Expedition ship *Taimyr*
Border: view of Severnaya Zemlya (Northern
Land), as named in 1926
Premium Booklet — contains three single stamp
panes, each with one design from the set
Booklet cover depicts Oceanographic Service
emblem and view of Severnaya Zemlya

072 18th IAP (International Association of Public Prosecutors) Conference, Moscow, one value

Issue date: September 6, 2013;
Design: R Konsa; Printer: Goznak, offset;
Perforations: 11.9 x 12.3
15r — IAP emblem, figure of Justice,
buildings of the Moscow Kremlin

073 1150th anniversary of Smolensk, one

value in a miniature sheet
Issue date: September 21, 2013;
Design: S Ulyanovsky; Printer: Goznak, offset;
Perforations: 12.3 x 11.9
Miniature sheet 50r — Coat of Arms of

Smolensk (depicting cannon) and fortifications
Border bears montage of Smolensk historic
scenes from Viking era to modern times
The '1150' relates to the first mention of the
settlement in a document
(Rus Ustyuzhensky chronicle)

074 Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

Start of the Torch Relay, one value in a
miniature sheet
Issue date: October 7, 2013; Design: A
Moskovets and V Beltuyukov; Printer: Goznak,
offset; Perforations: 11.9 x 11.8
Miniature sheet 50r — Winter Olympic Relay
official logo
Border depicts torch with flame, and a map of
the Russian Federation showing the relay route
(123 days, ending February 7, 2014)

075 Cavaliers of the Order of St Andrew: Sergey Vladimirovich Mikhalkov, 1913-

2009, writer, one value
Issue date: October 9, 2013; Design: A
Drobyshev; Printer: Goznak, offset with varnish
layer; Perforations 11.9 x 11.3
15r — Portrait of the writer, badge of Order
*Notes: printed in sheets of eleven stamps and a
label (3 x 4). Mikhalkov wrote the libretto for the
anthem of the Russian Federation (which has
since become disused)*

076 Coat of Arms of Yaroslavl

one value in a miniature sheet
Issue date: October 11, 2013; Design:
A Moskovets; Printer: Goznak, offset;
Perforations: 11.9 x 12.3
50r — Coat of arms of Yaroslavl
(black bear carrying golden axe)
Border bears map of Russian Federation, and
the 2001 arms of Yaroslavl
(bear with red-shafted axe)

077 XXVII Universiade Games, Kazan

stamp booklet
Issue date: June 25, 2013; Design:
KH Bedretinova; Printer: Goznak, offset;
Perforations: 11.9 x 12.3
Premium Booklet — contains one pane with 25r
— Games emblem (text and five coloured stars)
Border of sheet depicts mascot holding a torch,
and parorama of Kazan, and coloured ribands
Booklet cover bears ribands and mascot
*Notes: booklet pane is height 100mm x width
156mm. See also issue of June 26, 2013*

VATICAN CITY

(previously listed in September 2015 issue)

078 The Travels of Pope Francis in 2013

two values and a stamp booklet
Issue date: November 21, 2014; Designs: from
photographs; Printer: Printex, Malta, offset;
Perforations: 13.6 x 13.6
€0.70 — Visit of Pope Francis to Brazil (July
22 to 29, 2013) and monumental
statue Christ the Redeemer
€0.85 — Visits to Italy: Pope giving address at
Salina, island of Lampedusa (central
location in the migrants from
Africa crisis)
Stamp Booklet (€4.30): contains a single pane
of €0.85 x four copies
Cover depicts the Pope beside a migrant boat
*Notes: Vatican Post is making a donation to
migrant welfare from proceeds of the €0.85
stamp and booklet sales*

ZIMBABWE

(previously listed in May 2014 issue)

079 World Post Day, four values

Issue date: October 9, 2015; Printer: NatPrint,
Harare, offset; Perforations: 14.25 x 14
30c — Ancient post runner
75c — Horse borne post (post rider with horn)
80c — Harare Main Post Office
\$1 — Post Bus next to pillar box
*Notes: the designs have the images within a
frame in the shape of Zimbabwe*

080 Frogs of Zimbabwe

four values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: December 9, 2014; Design: from
paintings of frogs in their habitat by Joan
Soriano; Printer: NatPrint, Harare, offset;
Perforations: 14.25 x 14 (sheet stamps) or
imperforate (miniature sheet)
30c — Swynnerton's reed frog,
Hyperolius swynnertoni
75c — Giant bullfrog,
Ptychocheilus adspersus
85c — Bushveld rain frog,
Breviceps a. adspersus
\$1 — Inyanga river frog, *Amietia inyangae*
Miniature sheet: contains the four values in an
imperforate block of four within a 'frame' of
mock perforations



066



068



069



078



080

A

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Airports: 036
Americana: 029, 031
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RN4 GREAT BRITAIN – HMS Victory Cover, issued for the 250th anniv. of the launching of Nelson's Flagship, HMS Victory. "The pride of the British Navy". The oldest commissioned warship in the world. Bearing a Royal Mail ensign stamp and cancelled with a Royal Mail illustration ship pmk. dated 7/5/15 – only 100 covers were issued. Price £8.75

Malay. 2 SINGAPORE – A fantastic collection of Singapore stamps. Mainly in fine used condition and containing definitives and commemoratives of Singapore. Hundreds of different stamps Price £16.25

E2R GP1. GREAT BRITAIN – Rare Machin gutter pair cover. One of the most sought after Machin definitive covers. The Royal Mail illustrated cover bears the scarce blue 2nd class definitive Machin gutter pair with gold coronation anniv. Royal Mail crown design in Gutter Pair. The cover is postmarked with the official London E2R Coronation anniv. Pmk. Dated 1/1/13. This is of postal history importance as the Machin Coronation Gutter Pair is scarce as mint and rare used on cover Price £27.

Parl 92 GREAT BRITAIN – Scarce Parliamentary Cover – This scarce cover issued for the 750th Anniv. of Simon De Montfort's Parliament. Superbly illustrated and bearing the Royal Mail De Montfort commemorative stamp pmkd. with Royal Mail 2/6/15 official Royal Mail illustrated postmark. Only 60 of this cover are known to exist Price £9.25

Alb. 7 ALBANIA – A lovely collection of Albanian stamps, including scarcer older stamps issued for King Zog, unmounted mint. Unusual items noted include 1952 stamps issued by the Albanian Govt. in exile. Also better overprinted stamps. Containing over 100 stamps with blocks and singles mint and used Price £15.

HRH 72. Princes Diana – A rare Great Britain cover issued for the interment of Diana Princess of Wales. The illustrated cover has been postmarked twice by the Royal Mail. Once on the actual interment day 6/9/97 and then again on the issue date of the Diana Memorial British stamp issue on 3/2/98. These covers now mostly in collectors hands are rare and seldom offered for sale Price £17

GB10. First Flight Cover – Elusive aviation cover flown on the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet on its maiden flight from New York to London on 22/1/1970. The superb Boeing illustrated cover bears a GPO aircraft stamp and GPO postmark in combination with "Boeing 747" flight cachet in red Price £8.

EP96. EUROPEAN PRINCIPALITIES – A gorgeous collection of mainly unmounted mint stamps of the small European principalities includes: Monaco, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Andorra. Some used but mostly Unmounted Mint. Over 100 stamps Price £19

CAM 25. DAVID CAMERON. – A much sought after 2015 General Election cover. The cover bears the QEII "Pound note stamp" with illustrated Pmk. Dated 7/5/15 for the shock election results giving the Conservatives an outright majority. The cover depicts the Prime Minister David Cameron. Less than 65 covers exist world wide making this one of the scarcest political covers Price £18.50

IN 923. INDONESIA – Super collection of this popular S.E. Asian country dating back to 1945 to more modern with only unmounted mint in blocks & singles. The collection contains hundreds of mint Indonesia stamps Price £18.

GB11. WINSTON CHURCHILL – A superb cover commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill becoming prime minister. The cover depicts the great man and his quote: "All my past life has been but a preparation for this hour and this trial". The cover bears the Winston Churchill Royal Mail commemorative stamp issue and illustrated Royal Mail Churchill postmark (from a limited issue of only 100 covers) Price £14.

POW 9. COLDITZ – Official Red Cross commemorative Colditz prison cover. The cover was flown from Colditz to the Channel Islands, the cover depicts the infamous prison with German postage stamp and Colditz postmark Price £10.

MS 493. WORLD WIDE MINIATURE SHEETS COLLECTION – A big collection of well over one hundred different miniature sheets, countries noted include: Russia, Eq. Guinea, St. Thomas and Prince Islands, Guyana, Cambodia, Gt. Britain, Trucial States, Tanzania, Panama, U.S.A., Korea, Mexico, Belize, Israel, Afghanistan, Philippines, Pakistan & Cuba. A massive lot, with mint and used miniature sheets Price £17.25

SNP 12 SCOTLAND – The Special Commemorative cover for the Scottish National Parties Landslide Victory in Scotland: winning virtually 95% of seats. The cover depicts Nicola Sturgeon (SNP Party Leader) and bears Royal Mail Heraldic Lion stamp and official Edinburgh Postmark dated 7/5/15. The cover is sought after in Scotland and elsewhere as only 50 were produced at the time Price £13.75

IOM 8. ISLE OF MAN – Queen Victoria Illustrated commemorative cover for the 175th Anniv. of the world's first stamp. The impressive cover bears a block of six penny black stamps and one two penny blue stamp tied to the cover with 6th May IOM Anniv. pmks. Only 100 of this cover were postmarked by the IOM Post Office Price £9.25

E481. ETHIOPIA – A valuable collection of Ethiopian stamps dating back to circa 1898 Abyssinian issues with many older stamps of the 1930's to 1950's including scarcer early Air Mail overprints and ranges through to more recent issues. Approx. 100 different Ethiopian stamps Price £19.50

MAR 7. PRINCESS MARGARET MOURNING COVER – This scarce Royal Cover is hardly ever offered for sale. Illustrated with a classic portrait of Princess Margaret 1930-2002 and postmarked exceptionally with Royal Mail Brighton internal enquiry office postmark dated 9/2/2002. The cover is of special postal history interest due to the use of the rare postmark Price £21

PRC 10. CHINA – A glorious collection of stamps of China. Mostly People's Republic of China, with interesting group of Hong Kong Stamps; also China Stamp Booklets, Mint Complete sheet noted some odd Macau, Several China Miniature Sheets and China First Day Covers. Noted better overprinted stamps, East China 1949 Mao Tse Tung & General Zhu. A highly recommended lot with hundreds of China stamps not counting complete China stamp booklets, miniature sheets and FDC's Price £37

LUS 3. RMS LUSITANIA – Special commemorative cover for the centenary of the sinking of the Lusitania. Only 100 covers in existence. Superbly illustrated for the tragic event that brought America into World War I. The cover bears a Royal Mail Navy Ensign Stamp with the 7th May 2015 Lusitania illustrated Royal Mail Liverpool pmk Price £8.75

JK 106. HARRY POTTER – A fantastic collection of different Harry Potter stamps from various countries. Includes a scarce Isle of Man Prisoner of Azkaban cover with I.O.M. Harry Potter stamp in combination with official Royal Mail Harry Potter stamp, postmarked with illustrated first day issue, Hogwarts postmark. The collection also includes unmounted mint Royal Mail Harry Potter stamps and miniature sheets from various countries, includes catalogued and scarcer unlisted issues the whole collection Price £19.75

SA4 NELSON MANDELA – A historic and scarce mourning cover for Nelson Mandela. 'His was a spirit born free, today his spirit is soaring through the heavens. He is now forever free' – Muhammad Ali 5/12/13. The cover bears a South Africa Mandela stamp with cachet 'In Memorial 1918-2013' also Royal Mail gold definitive postmarked Mount Pleasant 5/12/13. Only 50 covers known to exist Price £14.

GB85 GREAT BRITAIN – An important error on the 1966 Battle of Hastings 6d. value. The wrong colour gold leaf was used in error on the Queens Head. Error – yellow gold instead of normal bronze gold. We can offer the unmounted mint error plus normal stamp for comparison Price £7.50

LA39K BRITISH ISLES – A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cairn Iar, Isle of Easdale, Bernera Island, Staffa, Stroma, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calf of Man, Hildasay – Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calvey Island, Sanda Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The nominal face value is well over £200 Price £47.25.

GB5 GB WINSTON CHURCHILL D-DAY COVER – A spectacular cover and valuable addition to any WWII Collection. The cover is inscribed 70th Anniv. Of D-Day 6th June 1944. Illustrated with Churchill Downing Street 1940's Photograph, and Churchill's Quote: "And what a plan! This vast operation is undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever occurred." The cover bears a combination of Royal Mail, Churchill and D-Day stamps. With official Royal Mail, British Forces 3173 Postal Services postmark, D-Day 6th June 2014. The cover also bears original King Geo VI GPO stamps, with horizontal cachet inscribed "D-Day The Longest Day" in black. The cover issue was restricted to 100 covers only Price £13.75

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London auction totals over £1.8 million

A 'coins festival', held by coin and medals specialists Dix Noonan Webb, saw a total hammer price of almost £1.8 million with a series of important collections attracting strong bidding from dealers and private buyers over four days.

The highlight of the London sale was the £240,000 (£200,000 hammer price) paid by a London dealer for the rare gold 1820 George III Pattern £5 of which only 25 are thought to exist, as detailed on page 97.

Christopher Webb, head of the coins department at Dix Noonan Webb, said: 'This has been one of the most successful coins sales in the 25-year history of the company. As well as great individual rarities, we were offering whole collections put together by people with different specialist interests but the same discerning eye. The market responded enthusiastically.'

The total hammer price was £1,783,155 and once buyer's commission was added this rose to £2,139,786. Four collections put together by three men dominated the first



two days of the series of auctions.

A collection of Irish silver coins and tokens, dating from 1649 to 1813, put together by the late Harrington Manville, the American expert who compiled the *Encyclopaedia of British Numismatics*, sold for £220,572.

Manville's collection of Scottish silver coins and tokens (1664-1807) achieved a total hammer price of £148,695 and

included a rare Charles II 4 Merks from 1664 which sold for £26,000.

In the same sale the Theo Bullmore Collection of Irish coins of the Great Rebellion 1642-1649 sold for £168,900, and Paul Cattermole's extraordinary collection of sixpences from Tudor times until decimalisation in 1970 made a total of £49,305.

TALKING TOKENS

The Miller's Tale

One of the ways in which Norman landlords squeezed taxes from long-suffering Anglo-Saxon tenant farmers was to charge them for corn grinding. The baron owned the local watermill to which tenants had to cart their corn for grinding into flour to make the essential daily bread on which tenants survived. If the estate boasted more than one mill, the baron owned them all to enforce his monopoly. He also appointed all millers, selecting loyal men with proven ability to extract ten percent of every tenant's flour. The Domesday Book records 6,000 watermills in England, with the figure rising to more than 15,000 at the start of the 14th century. Many of the new mills used wind power. They could drive larger grinding wheels to cope with the greatly increased acreage of cereal crops grown as more land came under the plough.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, when many farmers had achieved a measure of independence and most landlords had sold their mills in favour of charging everybody on the estate higher ground rents, specialist millers began to emerge. They extended their businesses by offering graded grinding: finest wheat flour for better baking; coarse grinding of oats and dried beans for animal fodder. Business boomed with farmers carting



more grain and fodder crops to whichever miller offered the best prices for grinding.

One way in which millers attracted customers was to offer sack hiring services, with each farmer paying a deposit on a number of sacks and claiming a refund when the sacks were returned. To avoid the problem of finding change when sacks were hired many millers began to use sack tokens, which also served as advertising for the mill. An example is shown in the illustrations. Also shown is a lead seal used to prevent pilfering from filled sacks.

Coin errors on offer in New York

Spink's New York auction room recently played host to the sale of the Bill Snyder Collection of British Error Coins, featuring a series of unusual looking coins, including a 'stupendous' 1872 Gothic Florin diecap.

The highlight of the sale was the 1872 florin, featuring an obverse inset in a raised cap of over 6mm, creating an unusual 'die-dish' error. Toned a pearly white and uncirculated, the exceedingly rare and possibly unique Gothic diecap sold for \$8,500 (approximately £ 5,583).

Other highlights included a James II (1686) Halfcrown struck twenty percent off centre, which fetched \$3,250 (£2,134) and a George IV 1826

Shilling Obverse Brockage double struck with the second strike fifty percent off centre, which sold for \$1,500 (£985).

Spink USA Senior Numismatist Gregory J. Cole said: 'Generally, the Royal Mint was rather good at catching errors, thus this collection represents a sizeable offering of solid collector error coins.'



Falklands coin celebrates 'Rule, Britannia!' 275th anniversary



Pobjoy Mint has announced the release of a new coin on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government which commemorates the 275th Anniversary of the Composition of the song 'Rule, Britannia!' and features an image of the iconic female figure, Britannia.

Available in proof sterling silver and uncirculated cupro nickel, the 1 Crown coin features an image of Britannia, the female personification of the British Isles, in the foreground holding a trident with waves of the sea in the background. The obverse of the coin features an effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by Ian Rank-Broadley. Each coin is said to feature a 'glorious mirror-finish' background.

'Rule, Britannia!' is a patriotic British song which originated from the poem Rule Britannia by James Thomson and was set to music by Thomas Arne in 1740.

For more information visit www.pobjoy.com

Auction Highlights

One of just 25 known examples of a George III (1760-1820), pattern £5 coin of 1820 was recently sold to a London dealer by Dix Noonan Webb



in London. The coin was produced by renowned Italian engraver Benidito Pistrucci on behalf of the Royal Mint and features a laureate bust right of the King, with St George and the dragon on the reverse. Pistrucci had been commissioned to produce what would have been the first large gold coin during the reign, but the death of the king in January 1820 meant the design was never put into circulation. Just 25 or 26 of the coins were struck posthumously as commemorative pieces.

SOLD FOR £200,000

A Constantine I gold 9 solidi medallion, dating from 307-337 AD was recently sold at Bonham's in Los Angeles. The Roman item measured 48.8 mm in diameter and weighed 41.88g,



featured a draped and cuirassed bust of Constantine on the obverse and an image on reverse showing Constantine seated on the throne, holding a long staff in his right hand and accaia in left, Constantine II and Constantius standing to either side in military attire. According to Bonham's such medallions were presented as gifts to those the emperor wanted to impress. Since they were 'true multiples of gold and silver coins' and could legally used as money, they are known as money medallions.

SOLD FOR £82,919

Spink recently sold a recently discovered gold Half-Florin or 'Helm' of Edward III (1327-77). Described as 'an excessively rare coin of national importance', the coin was an experimental



issue conceived and executed during the 'high summer' of gothic art. 'Using continental gold issues for inspiration and utilising aspects of Edward's III's own great seal the designs are imbued with Edward's desire to stake his claim to the French throne' the auction description claims. 'Here we see the first instance whereby the French royal title is assumed on the obverse of a British coin. Surrounding the helm and dappling the fields are fleur-de-lis, an allusion to Edward's French lineage through his mother, Isabella of France. It was here at the outset of the Hundred Years War in the context of disputed lines of succession and with King Edward's claim to the French crown that the rest of British late medieval history was to be shaped.'

SOLD FOR £50,000

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Coins on a budget

This month's bargain coin was purchased at an Antique and Collectors' Fair in Glasgow for £13, writes Ed Archer. It is a shilling of Queen Anne. Coins of Queen Anne are normally expensive even in fine condition due to the fact that she only reigned for twelve years, 1702-1714.

On the reverse of the shilling is a cruciform arrangement of crown shields. Two of the shields have the joint coat of arms of England and Scotland, whereas the other two have the coat of arms of France and Ireland. The inscription is 'REG, 1711, MAG BRIT, FR ET HIB'. These abbreviated Latin words translate in full as follows 'Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland 1711.' The claim to the French throne as referred to above, was even more important in Queen Anne's reign as British Forces were fighting in Europe under the leadership of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough against Louis XIV of France.

The obverse shows a rather unflattering portrait of Queen Anne, which makes her rather matronly. The inscription round the rim is as follows 'Anna. Dei Gratia.' Basically that translates as Anne by Grace of God.



Perfect pennies

Today the humble penny may be just so much small change but for centuries it was the stalwart of the European economy, writes Paula Hammond. From the earliest coins of Pepin, Charlemagne and King Offa, to the first pennies used in the Americas, South Africa and Australia, this little coin has a big history

At first glance the penny may seem like the quintessential English coin. It was, after all, pretty much the only coin minted in the British Isles in any numbers for almost 600 years. However its origins lie in antiquity – in the drachma and denarius of ancient Greece and Rome. The 'd' used as an abbreviation for pre-decimal pennies actually stood for denarius and the name still survives in the coins of France (denier), Italy (denaro), Spain (dinero) and many Arabic-speaking countries (dinar).

Above from left: an Offa penny; the USA's popular Liberty Head penny; and an Aethelred II Short Cross penny

Right: A 'Cartwheel' penny produced at Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint in Birmingham



The earliest post-Roman coins were minted in gold but these proved too valuable for everyday transactions and were gradually replaced by silver. In England, these small, thick coins were probably called peningas (Old English for pennies) although they're known to collectors today as sceattas.

In some Northern English kingdoms, like Northumbria, sceatta style coins were minted until the mid 800s but in the South, Continental European ideas quickly found purchase. When, around AD 735 the Frankish King Pepin, introduced a

broader, thinner, silver coin called a 'novus denarius', King Offa of Mercia quickly followed suit, with pennies of a similar diameter and weight. In 793 when Charlemagne produced his smaller novus denarius, Offa again aped his European colleagues.

Prior to Offa's reign, coins may have been visually appealing but they were rare, debased and so generic that they often didn't even carry the name of the ruler. What Offa brought to the English penny was regulation and quality control.

The coins that began to appear during Offa's reign were intricate and imaginatively designed with reverses that included a wide range of Roman, Celtic and Germanic imagery. On their obverses were the ruler's and moneyer's names, alongside striking portraits. The inclusion of the moneyer's names/ initials was important as moneyers who produced debased or substandard coins could be, and were, executed.

Did you know?

240 of Offa's pennies made a Saxon pound of silver. Much to the confusion of the rest of the world, there remained 240 pennies to British pound until the arrival of decimalisation on 15th February, 1971.

What's in a Name?

No one knows for sure but the word penny may relate to the way coins were minted, with molten metal being poured into a pan known as a pfanne.

A Henry III Long Cross penny



Small change, all change

The availability of small, ready coinage provided the fuel for the fledgling English nation and as the State evolved so did the penny. By the time of Edgar the Peaceful (c. 943-975), the penny had finally become a universal currency, with as many as forty mints producing a single standardised coin. The Plantagenets introduced the long-cross reverse design which not only made it easier to cut the coin into halves and quarters for 'small change', but prevented coin clipping, as the edge of the cross was more obvious than it had been with the short cross design.

From the 8th century until the 13th, the penny became a vital part of early English life. During the reign of King Ethelred the Unready (966-1016), around 40 million were minted. A standardised English quality coin undoubtedly helped smooth the path of trade and bolster the economy but the idea of a penny as something fixed and measurable also became ingrained in the nation's consciousness. So much so that it became usual for craftsmen a specific rate of pennies per day. Essentials like bread were even fixed at a penny a piece. A penny loaf was a food staple from 1266 right up until the 1900s.

With the arrival of the Hanoverians the penny underwent perhaps its biggest changes. In 1797, Matthew Boulton was awarded the contract to manufacture pennies at the Soho Mint in Birmingham. Boulton's 'Cartwheels' were not only the largest and most substantial British pennies ever to be manufactured but they were made of copper rather than silver. Most of Boulton's pennies were eventually melted down when rising copper prices made them worth more as scrap than as coinage. However, Queen Victoria's copper pennies (1839-1860) and the later bronze Bun Pennies, featuring the splendid Wyon portrait of the queen and Britannia on the reverse, proved that the penny was still king of the coins.

By this time, British influence had spread the humble penny across the globe. Pennies became common currency in the Americas, Australia, and South Africa. Even today, the term penny persists in North America, where it's used as a nickname for the one-cent piece.

Real rarities

1. c. 794, East Anglia

Just four coins in the name of Æthelberht II of East Anglia have ever been discovered. One found in 2014, and sold for £78,000, is possibly the most interesting as it bears Æthelberht's name alongside the word REX. This bold move may have prompted Æthelberht's execution at the hands of the jealous King Offa in 794.



2. 1827, Australia

During the reign of George III copper pennies were only minted between 1825-7, and according to Tasmanian numismatist Roger McNeice the consignment for 1827 was sent to Australia for use in the Penal Colony. Due to climate and wear, mint examples are extremely rare.



3. 1930, Australia

The 1930 penny was the result of an experiment to produce better quality pennies. As the Treasury didn't order pennies in 1930 the good quality coins from the experiment went into circulation along with the 1931 issue. It's believed that around 3,000 1930 pennies were produced and about 1,500 coins are known to have been traded – leaving many more to be discovered. In VF condition this coin has fetched \$30,000 (approximately £19,500).



4. 1933, Britain

No pennies were struck for circulation in 1933 but a small number of commemorative coins were. Three were placed under the foundation stones of new buildings, two were presented to the British Museum. At least two went to private collectors. However, no one knows for sure how many were made and, as they were circulation grade, it's always been thought possible that some are still in circulation, waiting to be discovered. In 2010 one was even offered on eBay as part of a set apparently used in Big Ben. The sale fell through but, had it been genuine, it could have raised £100,000.



5. 1937, Canada

Although the Canadian 1936 'dot cent' coin is clearly marked 1936, it was minted in 1937. After the death of George V and the sudden abdication of Edward VIII, Mint officials didn't have a portrait prepared for the next in line to the throne. To avoid potential coin shortages, they re-used the George V templates from 1936 adding a dot below the date to indicate the new batch. Either the shortage didn't materialise or the Mint decided to wait for an official portrait and only three known samples were produced.



6. 1944, Steel Wheat America

In 1943, the US Mint struck more than a billion zinc-coated steel pennies. However, around 40 steel cents were inadvertently struck bearing the date 1944 and released by error. Only a dozen have been found and can command a price between \$150,000-200,000 (up to approximately £128,000).



Coins of the kings of Wessex

We recall Wessex today as the region where Thomas Hardy set his 19th-century novels. A thousand years earlier Wessex was a powerful kingdom with famous monarchs. Steve Webb looks at some of their silver coins and adds thumbnail sketches of their lives

Ecgberht (802-839)

The West Saxons had carved out a territory (today Dorset and Wiltshire) in southern Britain in the early 6th century and, apart from a brief loss of independence to Mercia (now the Midlands), Wessex kings held their lands until the formation of a unified England in the 10th century. In 802 the Wessex crown had passed to Ecgberht, who came to the throne during yet another period of Mercian belligerence. A series of brilliant campaigns by Ecgberht against all the kingdoms at that time under Mercian domination brought Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Essex to submission. He also achieved success in the West where much of Celtic Dumnonia (now Cornwall) soon fell to Wessex. Ecgberht then marched his army northward and forced the submission of Northumbria before a brilliant campaign in the Mercian heartlands secured a period of general peace. During the more placid final decade of his reign Ecgberht went on a pilgrimage to Rome, though he had also to take up the sword once more against Viking raiders on the Dorset coast. When he died in 839 the Wessex royal coffers were full to bursting, thanks to his conquests and to his personal thriftiness. He was buried in Winchester.



Aethelwulf (839-858)

More than a decade before Aethelwulf became King of Wessex his father sent him to Kent at the head of an army that challenged and defeated the pro-Mercian ruler. Aethelwulf took the Kentish crown and ruled successfully there until the death of his father in 839 whereupon he became the sole Wessex monarch, though his main mints were both in Kent, at Canterbury and Rochester. Relations with Mercia warmed after his daughter married into the Mercian royal household; he was soon fighting alongside Mercian troops in successful battles against the Welsh. He did less well initially against the Vikings, who defeated a Wessex army at Carhampton, Somerset in 843. Eight years later a stunning victory at the Battle of Aclea in 851 resulted in a Viking retreat followed by peaceful years during the remainder of his reign. Before he embarked on his pilgrimage to Rome in 855 with his two youngest sons, he left his eldest, Aethelbald, to rule in Wessex, while his second son, Aethelberht, took charge in Kent. Each retained his kingdom when their father died in 858.

Aethelbald (858-60)

As the second of five sons, Aethelbald succeeded to the throne of Wessex only because his elder brother died young. He tightened his grip on the kingdom by marrying his widowed stepmother, but lost support on the Church who described the marriage as 'incestuous'. The Anglo Saxon Chronicle dismisses his brief reign with the comment: two and a half lawless years of rule by an iniquitous and grasping king.

Aethelbert (860-866)

He succeeded to the thrones of Kent and Wessex following the deaths of his father and his childless brother Aethelbald. Vikings threatened both kingdoms frequently during his reign, storming Winchester and ravaging much of Kent.



Aethelred (866-871)

In the year of Aethelred's succession as king of Wessex, the Great Heathen Army of Danes crossed the North Sea and had soon destroyed Northumbria and East Anglia. In 868 Mercia came under threat and the Mercian king appealed for help, a call answered by Aethelred and his younger brother Alfred. They took an army to Nottingham, but the ensuing battle proved inconclusive. Two years later the Vikings turned their attention to Wessex, inflicting a series of defeats on Aethelred's armies, but failing to overrun the kingdom.

Early in his reign Aethelred had established a common currency between Wessex and Mercia by adopting the Mercian type of lunette penny so that coins minted at London and Canterbury could circulate throughout the two kingdoms. The arrangement no doubt improved trade and made paying armies easier. Aethelred died in 871, succeeded by his younger brother.



Alfred (871-899)

Most renowned of Wessex kings and known to history as Alfred the Great for more than his military victories. He limited the mass migration of Danes to what became the Danelaw in eastern England, and persuaded the Danish king Guthrum to convert to Christianity. During the resulting period of peace Alfred devised a system of fortified towns (burhs) across Wessex and gave free land plots within them to men who agreed to act as garrisons if their burhs came under attack. Many of the new towns later developed as commercial centres. Alfred also greatly improved his navy, recruiting Frisian sailors to crew his new ships. He established schools, wrote new laws, translated books from Latin to English, and encouraged his scribes to begin compiling the Anglo Saxon Chronicle. Many coins were struck, especially at Winchester and London. Minting them provided work for a large number of moneyers, reflecting the emergence of a coinage that was used by almost the whole of England during his reign.

Edward the Elder (899-924)

Named the Elder by historians to distinguish him from the later king Edward the Martyr, he continued his father's work of creating burhs and squeezing Danish holdings. In 917 he captured Danish East Anglia. Somewhat ironically he died leading an army against Welsh and Mercian rebels in 924.



Edmund I (940-946)

His reign began with an invasion of Northumbria and the Midlands by the Norse king Olaf III Guthfrithson. The Norseman died soon afterwards and Edmund swiftly regained his territories. He then worked tirelessly to establish good relations with Scotland, Ireland and France to ensure general peace. He performed good works and was attending mass at a Wessex church when an exiled thief murdered him.



Eadred (946-955)

Northumbria became a source of rebellion during Eadred's reign, allowing Vikings to exploit local difficulties. One who arrived was Eric Bloodaxe, erstwhile king of Norway. He attempted to set up a new Northumbrian kingdom. Eadred responded swiftly with a punitive force that attacked many strongholds and burned Ripon monastery. His swift action left the rebels subdued and peace restored. In fact Eadred died in bed from an intestinal malady. He had never married, so the crown passed to Eadwig.

Aethelstan (925-940)

York, the last remaining Viking Kingdom in Britain, fell to Aethelstan's army in 927 and he became the first Anglo-Saxon to rule England in its entirety. When a combined army of Scots and Vikings invaded from the north he defeated them at the Battle of Brunanburh. During the early part of Aethelstan's reign regional styles of coinage had been issued; but following his conquest of York he issued new coins to signify his kingship over a united England.



Eadwig (955-959)

On the day of his coronation sixteen-year-old Eadwig, known then as Eadwig the All-Fair, had an altercation with Dunstan, a powerful cleric, who remonstrated with him for failing to attend an important meeting of nobles and preferring the company of a woman. The immediate upshot was that Dunstan had to flee the country and Eadwig married the woman. A longer term outcome saw Dunstan and his supporters succeed in having the marriage annulled because it was incestuous; and Eadwig lose the support of the thanes of Mercia and Northumberland; and the kingdom divided between Eadwig and his brother Edgar. Perhaps fortunately Eadwig died two years later and the kingdom reunited under Edgar.

Edgar (959-975)

Edgar recalled Dunstan from exile and later appointed him Archbishop of Canterbury. The reign enjoyed fifteen years of peace and prosperity with no dissenting voices throughout the kingdom. This was, however, the last reign of the House of Wessex to run its course without rivals contesting the throne. Edgar died without a legitimate male heir and had to appoint his illegitimate son Edward as successor.



Aethelred II (978-1016)

This was the reign in which Anglo-Saxon England began to fall apart. The ill-advised, Unrede (Unready) child on whose head the crown was placed following Edward's murder found himself surrounded by men under deep suspicion of instigating the crime. As a result they and the young king had difficulties in raising armies when Danes began raiding once again in 980. The king, aged about fourteen, could do no more than follow advice; bad advice that led from payments of Danegelt... to massacring peaceful Danes who had settled in England years earlier... to the invasion of a full Danish army to avenge the slaughter... to Aethelred's flight and absence from England for three years.

He returned when the Danish king died in 1014 only to learn that Cnut, son of the Danish king, was on his way to claim England. Aethelred and his own son, Edmund, fought and lost to the Danes. Cnut, impressed by Edmund's fighting prowess, allowed him to retain Wessex. When Edmund died Cnut absorbed Wessex into Danish England.



Edward (975-978)

A contest for succession gave Edward the crown thanks largely to the support of most archbishops. Some nobles supported Edward's younger half-brother Aethelred II. Unrest throughout the kingdom provided opportunities for plundering ecclesiastical properties. During the general unrest the king was assassinated while on a visit to Corfe Castle in Dorset. The spot later became a shrine, and the dead king earned the name Edward the Martyr.



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Copenhagen's round tower

We collectors often have strong déjà vu experiences when we visit previously unknown towns and cities, recognising buildings or scenery which we have previously seen in our stamp albums. Christer Brunström got that feeling when he visited Copenhagen's Round Tower

On 27 November, 1942, the Danish P&T Department released a 10-øre violet stamp marking the 300th anniversary of the Round Tower. The stamp was designed by V Bang and his rendition of the tower makes it stand out as if it was an isolated building. In fact, the tower is attached to a large church building right in the heart of Copenhagen.

The stamp was recess-printed in violet. The engraving was the work of J Britze who was responsible for numerous stamps from the late 1920s until the early 1940s. The stamp was printed in a quantity of nine million copies which still makes it a very common stamp both mint and used. However, it offers a number of interesting varieties, more of which later.

In the early 1600s, King Christian IV ordered the building a tower to be used as an astronomical observatory. The work started in 1637 and the tower was completed five years later. It is part of the Trinity Church complex which also included the library of Copenhagen University. The tower is 36 metres tall and a 209-metre spiral ramp leads to the top. It was built in this way to allow the king to ride his horse all the way to the top.

When I last visited the tower it was on a very hot summer's day and the walk up to the observation platform was quite demanding. However, from the top of the Round Tower you have a great view of the Danish capital.



Above, from left: stamp with 'The Bomb' plate variety and (inset) a close-up of the variety with a short black diagonal line on the right hand side of the stamp; the 1944 Red Cross surcharge

Top, right: Vignette of Rundetårn Observatory as included in the map of the southern celestial hemisphere by astronomer and cartographer Johann Doppelmayr, c.1730

Today the tower is still used by amateur astronomers but it is mainly a popular tourist attraction.

Tower varieties

Many collectors enjoy looking for plate varieties, such as tiny damages or retouches to the printing plate. Sometimes you need a strong looking glass to discover these tiny varieties.

In Denmark, it was soon discovered

The stamp was printed in a quantity of nine million copies, but it offers a number of interesting varieties

that one of the stamps in the sheet had a rather spectacular variety which can easily be seen if you know what to look for. Position 14 has what looks like a heavily coloured line to the right of the tower in the shaded area. This variety only exists in part of the printing.

When the stamp was issued in 1942, Denmark was occupied by Nazi Germany. The situation in Denmark

was rather peaceful despite the war raging in other parts of Europe. Both the Allies and the Germans resorted to heavy bombing raids of not only military targets but also of towns and cities with mainly civilian populations.

Thus it comes as no surprise that contemporary philatelists baptised this line in the sky variety 'The Bomb'. Fortunately this was only in the mind of stamp collectors; a real bomb might have destroyed the old landmark forever.

On 11 May, 1944, the Round Tower stamp was reissued but now with a surcharge of 5 øre going to the Red Cross. There were six million

copies of this stamp making it very common with a low catalogue value.

This stamp also exists with 'The Bomb' plate variety. Another interesting variety to look for is the raised overprint on which the cross and value are level with the tower's gallery railings.

The three varieties mentioned here are far more costly than the basic stamps and well worth looking out for.

The Sherborne Castle hoard

Hoarders are arguably the lifeblood of numismatic study, writes Richard Kelleher, as he examines an intriguing set of exotic Portuguese gold coins discovered in Dorset in the 1970s and now held at the British Museum

The coin collections housed in the great cabinets of the world – be they public or private – are populated by coins

derived from hoards. The reason for this is both historical and practical; until the advent of metal detecting in the 1970s, hoards were the only real source of coins for collections and by their very nature they tend to be of high quality and often in significant numbers. They provide material for students and for collectors, and in some cases they offer intriguing glimpses into the economic conditions of past societies. This month we look at a hoard discovered in excavations in a Dorset town which included some exotic gold coins from Portugal.

Sherborne is a pleasant market town situated on the River Yeo, on the edge of the Blackmore Vale. In 1970 archaeologists excavating the old castle in the town of Sherborne (not to be confused with Sherborne Castle – the local manor house built by Sir Walter Raleigh) uncovered a hoard of 194 coins dating to the mid-sixteenth century.

The castle was built as the fortified palace of Roger de Caen, Bishop of Salisbury and Chancellor of England and at the time of the secretion of the hoard was still in the hands of the church. The hoard is intriguing as it contains ten foreign gold and 184 English silver coins. The latest coin is dated c.1535–40 giving us a deposit date in the late 1530s. The gold coins comprised nine Portuguese cruzados and one Spanish excelente. The coins illustrated here is one of the cruzados now in the British Museum's collection.

The obverse carries the central image of the crowned shield of Portugal. The Latin inscription reads 'IOANES III R PORT' for John III king of Portugal. On the reverse is a central short cross and the legend 'IN HOC SIGNO VINCES', 'In this sign you will conquer'.

Commerce between England and Portugal had been well established since the second half of the thirteenth century and one would therefore expect

Portuguese coins such as this example were used in England during 16th century, prompting the authorities to demonetise the coins in 1560

some coin of this earlier period to be found. Furthermore, when John III came to the throne in 1521 Portugal was the leading maritime and colonial power in Western Europe, so it comes as no surprise to find Portuguese coinage of that period also entering the English circulating medium. The first to make an impact, in the 13th century, was the silver dinhiero and from the fifteenth century and into the Tudor period the silver chinfroes (or half-reals) become fairly well attested as both strays and in hoards. The first and only proclamation to make reference to Portuguese gold came under Queen Mary on 4 May, 1554, in which cruzados of both the long and short cross variety were made legal tender at 6 shillings and 4 pence and 6 shillings and 8 pence, respectively. However, this endorsement was short-lived as the cruzados, along with much other foreign specie, were demonetised by an Elizabethan proclamation of 15 November, 1560.

The fact that the government legislated against Portuguese and other foreign gold coins is testament to the fact that they circulated in some numbers in 16th-century England. The distribution of Portuguese finds is telling and displays a definite geographical bias to the west of the country. Only one Portuguese gold coin of this period has been recorded as a stray find (from Lamphey), though they



appear in three hoards – Sherborne, Cefn Garw and Maidenhead and from wrecked vessels at Glamorgan and Mounts Bay (Cornwall). Interestingly the first two of these hoards were deposited in the 1530s, at least twenty years before the first proclamation made them legal tender, so we can surmise that the proclamation came as a response to the fact that cruzados were already actively circulating and were in need of some official sanction. The presence of the Portuguese coin in the Cefn Garw hoard has been explained as indicating trade between the Iberian Peninsula and the Bristol channel ports. Since Bristol was a leading port from the medieval period, at times second only to London, its role as an entrepôt for Portuguese coins is likely.



R. Kelleher, 'Gold is the strength, the sinews of the world', continental gold in Tudor England', *British Numismatic Journal* 77, 2008, 210-25

J.P.C. Kent, 'The circulation of Portuguese coins in Great Britain', III Congresso Nacional de Numismatica. Actas (Lisbon 1985), 389-405

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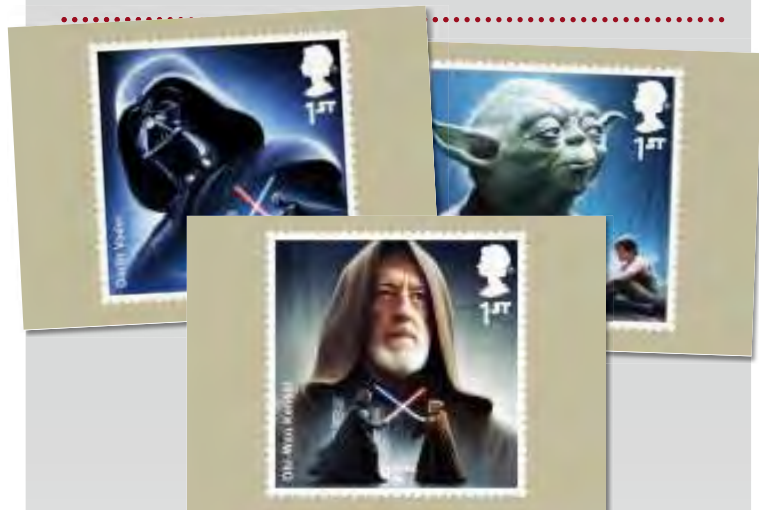
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